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THURSDAY, APRIL 19TH, 2012

Huge demonstration in Cowbridge as traders and residents march through town

RECORD NUMBERS TURN OUT TO SAVE THE CATTLE MARKET

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Just part of the crowd at the protest rally in the cattle market. (Photograph by MIKE WILCOCK).

THE streets of Cowbridge were packed last Friday (April 13) for the biggest demonstration seen in the town in recent years – as traders and residents combined in an attempt to save the cattle market.

A good-natured protest march started behind the town hall, and made its way to the cattle market. The numbers were so great that, as those at the front were turning left at the Market Place, the walkers at the rear were still at the town hall.

Local farmers used tractors at the front and rear of the march to protect the walkers as they chanted: "*Keep Cowbridge Special - Save our Cattle Market!*"

A large number of Cowbridge businesses were prominent in the protest, and the chamber of trade chairman, Alun John, said he was "delighted" with the numbers who turned out.

He said: "Just 10 minutes before the march was due to start, there didn't seem that many, but people arrived in a late rush.

"The aim of this protest was to demonstrate to the Vale Council exactly how strongly local people feel, and we have certainly done that."

Later, he spoke at the cattle market from an improvised platform (a wooden pallet on a fork lift truck) and told the crowd that the campaign to save the cattle market now had the support of the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Cowbridge Residents' Group, the Farmers Union of Wales (FUW), the National Farmers Union (NFU), Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, the Vale Marketing Group, Cowbridge Charter Trust, Vale MP Alun Cairns, Vale AM Jane Hutt, and regional AM Andrew RT Davies.

Mr Cairns and Mr Davies had sent their apologies because they had prior engagements.

The Vale Council has resolved to sell the cattle market for housing, and has invited companies to submit bids for an extra care housing complex that would cater to the needs of the elderly.

However, the campaign group feels that the only chance now is to get the site redesignated in the Local Development Plan (LDP) so that housing is not an option.

Addressing the crowd, Alun John said: "The Vale Council's decision to sell the site must be overturned, so that the market and the car parking there can be saved for years to come.

"The Vale Council should go back to their plush offices in Barry and rethink.

"There was no consultation before the decision was taken. There has been a market in Cowbridge since 1254, when the town received its Charter, and it has played a huge part in making the town what it is."

He went on to say that it was only through the accident of various local government reorganisations that the Vale Council came to own the site.

He told the crowd: "This site was bought by the Cowbridge Rural District Council to keep it for Cowbridge people, and they surely have the right to decide what to do with it.

"The Vale Council is increasingly isolated and perhaps, with the local council elections coming up in May, all the local council candidates should declare their position on this matter."

This was met with loud, sustained applause, and it is certain that the two sitting Cowbridge councillors, Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie, who are both members of the Vale Council cabinet, will come under pressure to make their position clear.

The third Cowbridge Vale councillor, Val Ellis, is standing down, so the pressure will pass to Andrew Parker, who is the third Conservative candidate.

Mr John was asked a number of questions at the meeting, including whether a petition was being organised.

He replied that a petition had been handed to the Vale Council Leader, Coun Gordon Kemp, and that as yet, the organisers of the petition had not even received an official acknowledgement from the Vale Council that it was under consideration.

He was asked when the cattle market would close, if the council refused to change its mind.

Mr John said that earlier that day, it had been announced that the market operators had been granted another 12-month lease.

However, he felt that the council would want to proceed with the sale as soon as possible after the May elections.

(Continued on page 3). See more photographs on pages 6 and 20.

Vale councillors issue response

COWBRIDGE cabinet members Couns Geoff Cox and Hunter Jarvie issued a statement this week on the cattle market.

It is reproduced in full in this week's GEM, and includes a promise on the subject of car parking. (See page 3).

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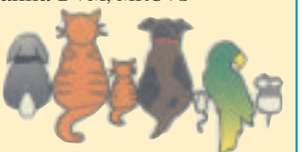

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Town urgently needs sports centre upgrade

I'M writing in support of Mr Anthony Powell (GEM letters, April 12) when he queries the priority that the Vale Council attaches to the Barry Sports Centre.

I'm a relative newcomer to Barry having only lived in the town for 32 years, but in that time I have seen at least two generations of Barry youngsters use the facilities of the centre.

During the period, there has been significant investment in the facilities on the site with the provision of the all-weather pitches and the sports hall and the area is used more intensively due to the joint user agreement with the Barry Boys Comprehensive School.

The only areas not to receive investment are the changing rooms and other indoor facilities. These have remained relatively unmaintained over the 30-year period.

The facilities are intensively used and a large number of volunteers give up their time to organise a wide range of activities for young people in Barry, as well as supporting adult sports activities on the site.

The whole area is an asset to the town, as it has good parking facilities for the users.

One has to question priorities. I have been trying to find out from the council just how much the works on the Bro Morgannwg playing fields have cost. Here the council decided to dig up a perfectly good rugby pitch to build a new primary school.

To compensate for the loss of the pitch the council, in their infinite wisdom, decided to reinstate derelict land along Greenbanks Drive as a playing field.

This entailed major civil engineering and earth moving works over a number of months. The estimated cost of this work was around £97,000.

The latest cost that the council has admitted to is £154,000 and this figure is under challenge as, despite a request under the Freedom of Information Act, the council has not yet provided a full breakdown of costs.

My estimate of the actual costs of providing this one rugby pitch for the exclusive use of Bro Morgannwg School is somewhere between £300-£400,000.

Contrast this expenditure for a limited number of school pupils five days per week with the seven-day operation of the sport centre for the benefit of a wide range of the people of Barry, and one must ask whether the council is getting its priorities right.

The town needs the Barry Sports Centre. It is an irreplaceable asset that capitalises on the goodwill of a large number of volunteers to provide sports activities for generations of Barry people. The investment needs to be made.

David Kennett, Barry.

Irony of town's parking problems

THE issue of lack of parking in Cowbridge has been well documented in the past.

Recently, while trying to use the Leisure Centre car park on a Saturday, I was amazed to find not one parking space!

It seems that people are using the leisure centre car park while shopping. Not surprising, this, given the lack of parking anywhere in the town – but somewhat ironic when the health centre car park, which could hold parking for at least 60 cars adjacent to the leisure centre, is locked up out of surgery hours and unavailable for use?

Gareth Mitchell, Cowbridge.

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LDP: 'ARE THESE 7,721 NEW HOUSES REALLY NECESSARY?'

I HAVE read with interest, the objections to the LDP from several resident groups throughout the Vale – and also the response from councillors that they have been told by the Assembly that the council has to build 7,721 houses over the next 15 years – and they have to go somewhere.

I would like to question the need for so many houses. The figures are based on the Assembly population projections which I have read with interest. As with all statistical projections, they are filled with caveats concerning the sources of the data, forward projecting based on historical data etc.

It appears the data is based on trends over the last five to 10 years, and the most interesting fact is that inward migration is the largest figure, outweighing the increase in births over deaths.

The data also appears to be based on a top-down approach i.e. data for the UK is split out to the regions and Wales, which is then split down to the various councils.

There are plans to do a bottom-up approach, with the councils providing their own data from pooling data and GP records, but this has not been used so far.

I would question whether the UK and Wales is going to see as much inward migration over the next 10 years as it did over the previous 10 years, when the economy was generally healthy, immigration was not controlled very well, and there was a huge jump in immigration from Eastern European countries that had joined the EU.

Here are some other statistics from the Assembly which casts some doubt on their own projections (*key statistics for the Vale of Glamorgan November 2006*). In 2001, the Vale authority had a population of 120,000 people and 48,753 houses, with an average occupancy of 2.46 people per household.

The population in the Vale in 2010 (*council database)* was 125,000 (an increase of four per cent) and using the same household occupancy gives the number of households at 50,813. (Unfortunately, I could not find any data for actual households in 2010). This is an increase of 2,060 households between 2001 and 2010.

As mentioned earlier, this was during a relative boom period for the economy.

How, therefore, can they project a requirement for an additional 7,721 homes for the next 15 years?

I think a more likely requirement is 2,000 homes. The Vale also confirmed in 2010 approximately 880 empty domestic properties in the Vale, which I presume does not include properties for sale.

Politicians will say that you have to have a plan and it has to be based on some data. I would question the data they are using.

Also the plan for Wales and the LDP was started back in 2006 when everything was rosy and grand plans were afoot for St Athan and Cardiff Airport – and we know what has happened to those schemes.

Mike Carney Cowbridge

Fracking: Whose case to answer?

DWR CYMRU are quite justified in saying their current water supplies are hardly touched by the proposed fracking (T*he GEM, March 8*), as their only local source is the Schwyll aquifer, with springs near Ewenny that used to supply Bridgend.

It's the Vale Council that is responsible for the individual water sources, including those used for agriculture.

Instead of relying on Dwr Cymru, they should be getting together a case, including expert evidence, that these may be at risk.

The council should argue that the relatively shallow strata for fracking – in this case only 650 metres, not the normal 2,000 metres – are more likely to pollute groundwater, as has been found in the USA.

It's also the Environment Agency Wales (EAW) that is responsible for the groundwater directive, which covers all aquifers not just those currently drawn on for drinking water.

Friends of the Earth established their responsibility at the Aberthaw quarry inquiry, when the EAW proposed to ignore the minor aquifer under the site.

The EAW's John Harrison told the council seminar that the EAW would consider aquifer pollution only when an application to extract gas was made.

But they should argue that exploratory drilling is an integral part of fracking, and that in the absence of other information, fracking in shallow strata must be presumed to pollute local aquifers, which are given absolute protection under the groundwater directive.

So let's not criticise and pressurise Dwr Cymru, but the Vale Council and EAW.

They both have to prepare full cases and may now need to ask the Planning Inspectorate for extra time to do so.

Max Wallis,
Barry and Vale Friends of the Earth

'Convert site into Cowbridge piazza'

IN the projects it has so far undertaken at the Physic Garden, Old Hall and the Town Walls, Cowbridge Charter Trust has shown how remarkably it can achieve much with few resources.

If we are positive and suppose that the Vale Council rescinds its plans to sell the Cattle Market site from under the feet of its operators, is there something that the Charter Trust might do to improve the site and generate income for the town without affecting current operations?

The area behind the market sheds is a large central open space, for which many towns would give a great deal.

With a little work, it could be attractively paved, planted and turned into a square or piazza, of the sort that grace many Continental cities.

Indeed, minor development on the periphery could give us Cowbridge's own 'street café' area.

This need not interfere with the site's primary utility as a car and lorry park, but on special occasions, like the Jubilee, it could then also serve for street parties, for military or musical parades, for open air theatre, for marquees for the food or book festivals – and for visiting exhibitions, markets, or circuses.

All these could attract custom and revenue to the town to help pay for the initial investment.

Peter Sain ley Berry, Cowbridge.

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SEE MORE LETTERS, ON PAGE 10

Memories of the Penarth Pavilion?

I'M currently working for the Penarth Pavilion Project on 'Pavilion Memories' – a social history research project which aims to explore the history of this iconic building of Penarth through people's memories, stories and personal photographs.

Perhaps readers remember dancing the foxtrot at the Marina Ballroom? Or doing the Twist at Razzle Dazzle Rock'n'Roll nights? Did they meet a girl at the Commodore, or dance the night away at Peg's disco? Whatever their memory, we want to hear it - or even see it as we would really love some photographs too.

Their stories and photographs will add to a growing archive of material that will help to create a people's history of the Pavilion before it opens next year.

*If people want to contribute they can drop in to the Penarth Pavilion Centre opposite the pier, or contact us at: Penarth Pavilion Centre, Windsor Court, The Esplanade, Penarth CF64 3AT; telephone 02920712100; email: penarthpavi*lion.co.uk.

Ruth Collins, Penarth

Housing plan 'unsustainable'

I FIRST wrote to The GEM five years ago, about the folly of concentrating housing development in Barry without significant improvements to our roads.

Preceding the phrase 'housing development' with the word 'sustainable' does not make it sustainable – particularly when you consider government is still trying to work out a sensible definition.

The Welsh Government has previously described sustainable development as "Development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs".

I believe this local development plan fails to meet both.

Now suddenly, party political leaflets, a cabinet member and a former cabinet member are distancing themselves from the decisions they took.

The consequence of building thousands of houses in Barry and our neighbouring communities will have serious implications on Port Road and Cardiff Road as well as the streets in our town.

However, it is only when we approach an election that it seems to concern some of our political decision-takers.

Dennis Harkus, Barry
(Independent candidate for Gibbonsdown ward)

Charity needs help

ARE your readers arranging an event in your community and looking for a charity to support? Llamau is a registered charity working in south Wales to support homeless young people and vulnerable women.

We're looking for people to raise money for us in their community – whether it's a cake sale or a pub quiz.

To find out more about our work, visit www.llamau.org.uk, or call 029 2023 9585.

Hugh Russell (Fundraiser, Cardiff)

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL APRIL 26)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
19 Thur	06.09	9.1	18.28	9.1
20 Fri	06.46	9.2	19.07	9.3
21 Sat	07.22	9.4	19.37	9.4
22 Sun	07.57	9.5	20.09	9.5
23 Mon	08.27	9.3	20.39	9.3
24 Tues	08.59	9.2	21.11	9.2
25 Wed	09.28	8.9	21.41	8.9
26 Thur	10.03	8.7	22.14	8.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should always check with a tide table specific to their location.

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CATTLE MARKET ROW LATEST NEWS

'Councillors should say where they stand' says traders' chief

THE chairman of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Alun John, has called on all current and prospective Vale councillors to make it clear where they stand on the heated issue of the future of the cattle market.

Mr John told The GEM: "We want sitting councillors and prospective candidates to come forward and state whether they think the cattle market should stay in Cowbridge.

"We feel that all councillors, especially those outside Cowbridge who represent rural areas, should make their position clear.

"Quite frankly, if we don't receive a message of support in the next week or so, we will take it as a 'No' and bear that in mind when it is time to vote in the local elections."

Mr John was also keen to comment on a news report over the weekend that suggested that the Vale Council will put a cattle market at St Mary Hill.

He said: "All that has happened is that an area of land has been allocated in the LDP for a cattle market.

"The Vale Council is not going to pick up the bill for building it, and it is highly unlikely that anyone else will be able to find the money to invest in such a project."

PHILIP IRWIN

COWBRIDGE BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' PROMISE...

'No net loss of parking for cars if cattle market sold'

THE demonstration organised by the Cowbridge Chamber of trade last Friday, highlighted two important issues which are clearly of concern to many local people, namely the future of the livestock market and car parking.

The future of the livestock market has been the subject of both legal and commercial discussions between the Vale Council, as landowners, and the present market operators for some time.

The original 21-year lease expired in March 2011, and the council agreed to extend the operation of the market on an interim basis.

The Vale Council leader held a meeting late last year with representatives of the farming community and other stakeholders on the future of the market

He is still awaiting feedback following that meeting, but we can assure everyone that the present Conservative administration strongly supports the farming community and is committed to progressing meaningful discussions on the future of the site.

When the LDP process was set in motion, one of the present market operators put forward an alternative site for the market at Ruthin, and this was included in the draft LDP.

Indeed, the market operators had planned to transfer the market to that site some years ago, when they were keen to see the development on the present site of a Waitrose store.

The council included the present market site in the draft LDP (which indicates preferred land use over the next 15 years) as being suitable for housing.

The cabinet made the decision in June last year that this should be extra care housing for the elderly, with a stipulation that any development would include the construction of new public parking facilities to serve the wider town centre.

We can confirm that if we are elected to a Conservative administration there will be no net loss of public car parking spaces as a result of any redevelopment of the market site.

COUN GEOFF COX,
COUN HUNTER JARVIE,
(Members for the Cowbridge ward).

LDP contains proposal to replace market at St Mary Hill

ªCONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

He was asked about the condition of the market parking area, and said that the market operators could not be expected to find the money for improvements, when they had just a 12-month lease for one day a week.

He told the crowd: "The market operators have intimated that, if they were given a long enough lease, they would be prepared to spend money on resurfacing."

At the end of the question and answer session, Mr John asked if there were any council candidates who wanted to make their position clear.

Up stepped the two Labour candidates, Camilla Beavan and Alex Still, to get (possibly) the warmest reception from a Cowbridge crowd that they will ever get.

Mr Stlll said that, if elected as councillors, they would work to get the decision reconsidered and to preserve the cattle market.

Coun Ray Thomas (Conservative) who is the sitting councillor for Llandow and Ewenny came forward to say:

"I promised Gordon Kemp that I wouldn't say anything, but I will support the cattle market and will do so if I get re-elected in May."

Jane Hutt said that Alun John and his team of organisers should be congratulated for putting together the protest at such short notice, and said she would be supporting their aims.

Finally, Alun John emphasised that the protest was not just about Cowbridge, but about all the other small Vale villages that had grown up around Cowbridge, and which needed the town to be a vibrant and viable local centre.

A Vale Council spokeswoman said: "The council can confirm that the site falls within its ownership.

"The council has been progressing work on the Local Development Plan for the Vale, which seeks to plan the way land is used in the Vale for the next 15 years.

"This plan, which has recently been the subject to consultation, proposes to allocate the market site for residential development and a scheme to provide for public car parking.

"The Local Development Plan also includes a proposal to allocate land at Ruthin Road, St Mary Hill, for a new, replacement cattle market.

"The responses to the consultation on the Local Development Plan will be carefully considered.

"The Leader of the Council held a meeting late last year with farming representatives and other interested parties on the future of a cattle market in the Vale. Feedback is still awaited from those representatives that attended the meeting.

"The Leader is a strong supporter of the farming community and is committed into appropriate and meaningful discussion with interested parties' on the future of the site.

"There is currently no timescale for the proposed closure of the market. The current operator's licence to occupy has recently been renewed.

"The consultation period in respect of the LDP expired on 2 April."

PHILIP IRWIN

Speaker's poems struck a chord!

PENLLYN & DISTRICT WI

A craft evening was held on March 21, where information was exchanged and work began on posters and pamphlets for entering in the July Show.

Several members attended the Link Group evening held in Colwinston on March 22, and reported a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

The monthly members' meeting was held on April 3,in the Village Hall.

Members were welcomed to the meeting, and the president, Novello Peters introduced the speaker for the evening, Jan Price, from Llantwit Major, who read a number of humorous poems she had written and shared amusing anecdotes that struck a chord.

She said that she gets her inspiration for poems by observing, talking to and listening to people.

Vice-president Rhiannon Cory thanked the speaker.

The minutes were read by vice president, Marjorie Nash, agreed by the members and signed by the president. Information was given regarding various forthcoming local and federation events, and reminders given regarding the flower arranging/demonstrating meeting on April 14, in Federation House, and the spring council meeting in Barry on April 18.

The next craft evening will be on April 18, and we will be doing 'Sugarcraft', led by Jill Watkins.

The next meeting is on May 1, at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall when the speaker, Joyce James, will be talking about 'The History of Nursery Rhymes' .

It will also be a 'Resolutions' meeting.

New members are always warmly welcomed; we meet on the first Tuesday in every month (except August), at 7.30pm in Penllyn Village Hall.

For further information contact 01656 674191 or 01656 647115. **MN**

COMMUNITY NEWS: ST BRIDES MAJOR

Your local correspondent is Patricia Bevan-Morgan (01656) 880418

AT the recent community council meeting at All Saints, Southerndown, it was stated that this would be the last meeting before the council elections in May.

It would appear there are not enough applicants for an election to take place in the St Brides Major and Ogmore-by-Sea wards, so co-option would have to take place to make up appropriate numbers of councillors.

An election will take place for a Vale district councillor for the area so don't forget to use your vote on Thursday, May 3.

THE local produce market will take place on Saturday, April 21 at the church hall, St Brides Major with lots of stalls.

At the same venue, the local library will also be there from 10am-12 noon.

FROM May 1-September 30, dogs are banned from Southerndown beach. Further information and a fact sheet on dog fouling legislation can be obtained from Vale Visual Services on 02920 67300.

ON May Day (Monday, May 7) at 2pm, there is a sponsored Walk for Children in Distress; meet at St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major. Sponsor forms from Sheila on 01656 880108.

DATES FOR THE DIARY: *Thursday, May 31: Playgroup mums and toddlers' garden party at the Vicarage, St Brides Major.*

Friday, June 1: St Brides Major C/W Primary School street party.

Saturday, June 2: Garden party at the Vicarage, St Brides Major.

Diamond Jubilee Carnival on June 16 at the Vicarage Field, St Brides Major. The Carnival Queen and her attendants were chosen at a disco in the church hall last week.

JUBILEE CARNIVAL TO TAKE PLACE AT ST BRIDE'S MAJOR

A DIAMOND Jubilee carnival will be held at the Vicarage Field, Southerndown Road, St Bride's Major on June 16, to celebrate the Queen's 60 years on the throne.

Event chief Eileen Mathews, from the Three Villages Carnival Committee, said: "We want this to be a wonderful day of fun. Carnivals are a magical community event and we would love as many people as possible to get involved.

"Whether you're an individual, a business, an organisation, a club or a team please get creative and enter a float. With your help, we can make this a day to remember."

The day will be packed with events for the whole family, including, music, stalls, bouncy castles, children's rides, pony rides, displays, refreshments and much more.

Eileen added: "We want to celebrate the Jubilee with style, with a traditional carnival atmosphere.

"There will be a prize for the best float, a Carnival Queen and a grand village fair for the whole family."

"If you would like to enter a float, have a seller's stall, or simply volunteer to help, please get in touch."

Contact Eileen Mathews 01656 880235, Meryl James 01656 880681 or John Houston 01656 880262.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Hog roast

LOCAL events to raise funds for the National Eisteddfod are now in full swing and our committee, covering Llangan, Treoes, St Mary Hill and Penllyne has been heavily involved.

The latest planned event is the eagerly-awaited hog roast, which will take place at Pen-Llin Court Farm, Penllyne, by permission of Mr and Mrs John Homfray, on Saturday, May 19,.

Entertainment will be provided by pop/rock band Slipped Discs, from 7.30pm-12.30am. Tickets £30 to include an auction, including original paintings by Gwyn and Wilf Roberts (auctioneer, Alun Cairns MP). Contact Mary Crandow, on 01656 861833.

Concert

A concert by Bella Donna vocal ensemble will be held at Treoes Community Hall, on April 24, at 7.30pm, arranged by local appeal committee. Tickets, £5. Everyone welcome.

WHILE passing Ruthin Chapel a few days ago, I noticed writing on the door .

On investigation, I discovered that a very angry individual had scrawled obscene messages against certain creeds. Perhaps those responsible should stop and count their blessings, knowing he/she can go to bed and not have to live in fear of that knock on the door.

Cowbridge U3A

ON April 11, a talk on Cardiff Bay Barrage was given to Cowbridge U3A by David Crompton. The amazing feats of engineering were made accessible (just!) to members.

The next meeting, as usual, takes place at Cowbridge Rugby Club (2pm) on May 9, with a talk, 'Coastwatch', by Terry Ewington.

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Classical concert gives the young Cowbridge Comprehensive musicians a chance to shine

RECENTLY, pupils from the music department at Cowbridge Comprehensive School performed a concert with the Welsh Sinfonia, who were conducted by Mark Eager.

The school's own concert band, unde musical director Mr Adrian Colborne, played the opening piece – 'Jurassic Park' by John Williams.

The Sinfonia played pieces by Karl Jenkins, Biber and Benjamin Britten, and also accompanied the five Cowbridge school soloists.

The evning ended with the school band and the Welsh Sinfonia combining to play, 'The Marches of John Williams'.

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK
(telephone 01446 774502)

ABOVE and BELOW:
Some of the orchestra in action, and standing for a deserved round of applause.

ABOVE, LEFT: The school's soloists. (Back row, left to right): Hannah Clist (cello); Katie Wynne (clarinet); Sara Friel (flute); Cameron Hughes (horn); and (sitting) Toby Swann (piano).

CHILDREN TERRIFIED BY HIS BEHAVIOUR

Local man jailed for arson threat

A DRUNKEN man who threatened to burn down two houses in Barry has been jailed for three-and-a-half years at Cardiff Crown Court.

In one of the houses, children were present, and they became hysterical at what was taking place, said prosecutor David Pugh.

Craig Scarborough (37) of Laleston Close, Barry, pleaded guilty to two charges of threatening to damage property by arson.

Judge John Curran told him: "You are correctly described as someone who presents a high risk of causing harm and reoffending.

"The nature of these offences was frightening, and you did everything you could to terrify your former partner."

Mr Pugh said Michelle Miller had had a short relationship with Scarborough which came to an end.

She moved into a different property in Barry, which she obtained from the local authority.

On June 13, Scarborough asked to speak to her and began visiting her frequently. Sometimes, he would call without notice and if she was not there, would wait for her to return.

In early July, he stayed with her overnight on two occasions, but he began to act strangely, looking for cameras in the house and "hearing voices" telling him to hurt Miss Miller.

On July 5 he drank a lot, left the house about 10.30pm, visited a friend and returned.

He said to Miss Miller: "You slut. What are you wearing? How many men have you got in there? Don't make me hurt you. You want me to burn down the house? You know I'll do it."

Mr Pugh said she believed his threat and left the house and ran to a neighbour and collapsed in her home.

Also in that house were several children and a babysitter.

Soon after, Scarborough banged the front door of that house, shouting: "Don't make me burn these people's house down. You know I'm an arsonist, you know I'll do it."

The children became hysterical and several people in the area called the police.

Scarborough returned to Miss Miller's home and was found there drunk.

REPORT by AJ SICLUNA

When interviewed, he denied making any threats and revealed he had had eight cans of lager to drink.

He was said to have convictions for 31 offences, including causing damage to a police cell, possessing heroin with intent to supply, as well as two convictions for arson, one of which involved a previous partner's home.

Mr Pugh said that on that occasion, he stabbed himself and started a fire in her flat.

The second arson concerned him setting fire to a car.

His counsel, Robin Shellard, said: "He is no longer in need of in-house psychiatric care.

"Currently he receives drug medication, and is progressing, but his convictions are worrying and he understands the nature of his problems."

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Journey back to medieval times – to learn about medicinal herbs

ST NICHOLAS WI NEWS

ON April 12, members of St Nicholas WI met at the village hall.

The speaker for the evening was Adrianne Jones, whose topic was 'Medieval Medicinal Herbs'.

The presentation proved to be most interesting, informative and entertaining. Adrianne was dressed in medieval costume and explained its format and how clothes were made and used in those days.

There were many containers, tools and artefacts on display, as well as samples of herbs and seeds.

Adrianne described the way of life and explained the uses of items, as well as the way plants and herbs were used for medicinal reasons through the ages. The vote of thanks was given by Barbara Moore.

The business meeting followed, conducted by Ann Bryant, our president. In the absence of our secretary, Margaret Banks, Janet Hayes read the minutes of the previous meeting.

A very warm expression of thanks was given and flowers were presented to Maureen Glover on her retirement from the position of treasurer, which she has held for many years.

Carole Saunders is taking over from Maureen. She was kept busy on the evening, taking money for the forthcoming trip.

Refreshments were served by hostesses Viv Hayes and Angela Addicot.

The competition was 'an old container'. Joint first prize was won by Viv Hayes and Ann Roach, with Elizabeth Harry in second place.

The raffle prize was won by Betty Hicks.

The next meeting will be held on May 3 at 7pm.

Visitors and prospective members are always made welcome.

ENID EVANS

Pensioners' Easter finery

RECENTLY the Llantwit Major Pensioners' Club has been treated to some excellent entertainment.

Mr Eric Sparks gave an illustrated talk on Israel and The Holy Land, which was very well received.

Mid Glam mixed choir went along to sing a varied programme, including a very lively comic song, much to the amusement of the members.

PCSO Matt Woodman gave very useful information on home safety, telling members to keep an eye on their sheds and lawn mowers.

Easter celebrations took the form of an Easter bonnet competition, judged by Coun Gwyn John and his wife Gloria.

The high standard of entries gave them quite a task.

Easter eggs were given as prizes and a raffle and book stall were also run. The evening was rounded off by tea and hot cross buns.

The club meets every Tuesday, at 6.30pm, in Llantonian Hall, new members and visitors are always welcome.

Marged and Owain raise money for local charity

LEFT:
Marged Hall and Owain Browne entertained at The Duke Of Wellington in Cowbridge, to raise money for charity.

LOCAL harpist Marged Hall held a lunchtime recital at the Duke of Wellington function room, Cowbridge, on Easter Monday, to raise money for the local charity Crossroads Care in the Vale (EMI).

For the occasion, Marged was joined by baritone Owain Browne. Between them they entertained an appreciative audience with a varied programme for solo harp and solo baritone.

Marged opened with a bright rendition of JS Bach's 'Prelude from Violin Partita No3', arranged for harp by Grandjany, followed by Hasselmans' 'La Source', with further pieces by Parish Alvers and Tchaikovsky.

Owain's repertoire included a set of poems by John Masefield and Arthur Symmons, set to music for voice by John Ireland.

His second set was the Gerald Finzi arrangement of Five Shakepeare Songs.

The two joined to complete their programme with a nostalgic interpretation of the traditional welsh songs 'Dafydd y Garreg Wen' and 'My Little Welsh Home'.

Owain, currently based in Cardiff, is a graduate of the Alexander Gibson Opera School at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, while Marged, from St Hilary, is in her final year at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

The performers are very grateful to the accomplished Sharon Richards, who joined them as accompanist. They are also very grateful to Philip Gamlin from Gamlin's Music Centre, who provided the piano.

Crossroads Care in the Vale (EMI), which benefitted from the generosity of the audience, extended thanks to the young performers.

OBITUARY

David Ruscoe, Llantwit Major

THE LATE DAVID RUSCOE.

IT is with the deepest regret that we record the death of Mr David Ruscoe, who was born and bred in Llantwit Major, one of eight children born to Richard and Sally Ruscoe.

He lived with his family in Illtyd Avenue, until he married Christine at the age of 23. They were married for 42 years and had two children, Richard and Alison and two wonderful grandchildren, Megan and Joseph. His son-in-law is Owen Webb.

As a child, David's father was his inspiration. Growing up, he taught David how to fix lawn mowers, bikes, engines, you name it – they fixed it.

That's why David's friends gave him the nickname of 'Fiddler'; he was always fiddling with car engines and motor bikes.

David loved living in Llantwit Major, and his favourite place was the beach. He used to walk there every day, and he would go into the woods looking for branches that he thought might make a good walking stick. He enjoyed sitting on the wall, whittling away for hours talking to his friends.

David's love for the great outdoors was immense. He was a keen fisherman and was a member of the Ford Motor Company's Fishing Club. Metal detecting was another hobby he enjoyed.

David's job took him all over south Wales; he worked for a plant hire company for 36 years, driving a track machine. He designed a riddling bucket for his machine, which worked so well other companies made them for their machines.

He was highly sought-after for his skills. He was delighted when he was asked to work at the place he loved most – the beach.

David told many a good story of Llantwit Major, as he knew it so well, from smugglers' coves to ships washed up on the beach.

He was always in great demand for his skills as a machine driver. He was a perfectionist in his work, and he would never leave a job unless he was totally satisfied with it.

He worked for Costain's, helping to build the motorways in Wales, and Afan Landscape hired him for many years in Margam Park.

I can recall him telling me about an elderly gentleman who came to the park most days, and he longed to go and sit by the lake, but the ground was too rough for him to reach it.

David climbed into his machine and made a pathway especially for him, and not only that, he went and found him a big boulder and put it near the lake so he could sit down and rest. David was a very caring person, he just wanted to help people.

We can only think his recommendations go further than we thought, and he's now in high demand somewhere else. Whatever he's up to, whatever he's fixing, he will always be in the hearts of the ones who loved him.

CHRISTINE RUSCOE

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Cowbridge's day of protest as town's traders and residents try to save the cattle market

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS and MIKE WILCOCK.
{Photos marked 'GE' are by Glyn (telephone 07791 228684) and those marked 'MW' by Mike (telephone 01446 774484)}.

Vale AM joined the Mayor of Cowbridge, Coun Andy Banks, on the podium.

THOUSANDS of local resiednts joined last Friday's protest in Cowbridge at plans to sell the site of the livestock market for housing for the elderly.

The marchers stretched from the town hall to the cattle market, and they stayed to hear Alun John, the president of Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, outline the situation as the chamber saw it.

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Twin towns celebrate 30 years of bonhomie

ABOVE: The history of twinning exhibition was very busy.

ABOVE (left to right): Yves Laine, Tony Bennett, Jean Paul Belliot and Coun Eddie Williams.

ABOVE: Coun Edie Williams and wife Karen, with Yves Laine and his wife Marie att St Illtud's Church.

LAST weekend saw the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the twinning of Llantwit Major with the town of Le Pouliguen, France.

A delegation of 12 people travelled from France and, as is traditional with twinning exchanges, each couple were hosted by members of the Llantwit Major Twinning Association.

The French party included the Mayor of Le Pouliguen, Yves Laine, and his wife Maite – along with the president of the Le Pouliguen twinning committee, Jean Paul Belliot and wife Barbara – and other former presidents and senior members of the Le Pouliguen committee.

The weekend began with an exhibition of twinning history between the two towns, in the Llantwit Major Town Council chamber.

Many of the items on display were donated by members of the twinning association.

As the Mayor of Le Pouliguen had not previously visited Llantwit Major, the Mayor, Coun Eddie Williams and wife Karen gave the visitors a guided tour around the town, including St Illtud's Church, the town hall and the heritage centre, where Llantwit Major History Society had laid out an exhibition detailing much of Llantwit Major's historic past, illustrated by old photographs.

They then moved onto the shopping area where last year's regeneration project was viewed. Finally the tour was concluded with a trip to one of Llantwit Majors pubs to sample some Welsh beer!

The French visitors were later taken to Cardiff Castle, along with many of the members of the twinning association, for dinner and entertainment.

During the meal, there was entertainment with traditional Welsh music and also some light hearted history lessons. At one point, Mayor Laine was asked to become the food tester – just in case any of the food was poisoned! He survived the test.

On Sunday, a service of celebration was held in St Illtud's Church. The two towns were twinned in 1982 by a formal signing of a charter signed by the Mayors of both towns.

It challenged the people to promote friendship, co-operation and mutual awareness of each other's culture. During the service, these aims were read out in French, Welsh and English, and the service was conducted in a mixture of these languages.

Following the service, Llantwit Major Town Council hosted a reception at the town hall to mark the anniversary.

Both Mayors praised the hard work of the twinning associations in both towns. The Mayor of Le Pouliguen also presented a gift, on behalf of his town to Llantwit Major.

On Sunday evening to conclude the weekend, there was a concert held at St Illtyd's School, where the St Athan Voluntary Band played a selection of French and Welsh music. Everyone had a glass of champagne to toast the anniversary.

Members of the Llantwit Major association had also made three specially decorated cakes to mark the occasion.

The French delegation left Llantwit on Monday morning, having enjoyed a very successful weekend.

The chairman of the Llantwit Major Town Twinning Association, Tony Bennett, told The GEM: "There are more than 20,000 twinnings across Europe, and the one between Llantwit Major and Le Pouliguen has turned out to be one of the most successful.

"We have managed to provide exchange visits between the two towns for every one of the 30 years since the Charters were signed back in 1992.

"Next month, a party of 53 people are travelling from Llantwit Major to Le Pouliguen to celebrate this anniversary in France. During this visit, I have discussed with my counterpart in France the possibility of exchanges between several of our organisations within both towns. I also hope that the St Athan Voluntary Band will also go to Le Pouliguen to perform concerts.

"I would also like to thank all those who assisted in making this weekend such a special occasion."

St Peter's choir impress at Brecon Cathedral

THE choir of St Peter's Church, Peterston-super-Ely, were in residence at Brecon Cathedral last weekend, allowing the Cathedral choristers a short break.

On Saturday, the choir sang the introit 'Terra Tremuit' by William Byrd, an evening setting in D minor by Thomas Walmisley, together with Responses by John Reading, and concluding with the anthem 'Sicut Cervus' by Palestrina.

The main Sunday service was the setting 'Messe Solennelle' by Louis Vierne, followed by the anthem 'This Joyful Eastertide' Arr Phillip Ledger.

The evening service included the introit 'If ye Love Me' by Thomas Tallis, a setting by Charles Wood, Responses by Matin Neary and concluded with the anthem 'Ye Choirs of New Jerusalem' by Charles Villiers Stanford.

The cathedral staff and visitors were delighted to hear what was described as a thrilling range a musicality, rarely heard or performed outside of cathedrals these days.

The choir were also delighted to be joined by the Bishop of Swansea and Brecon, The Rt Rev John Davies, and the Dean of Brecon, Very Rev Geoffrey Osborne Marshall, who spoke to James Bull (musical director) and David Butler (organist).

The choir perform a large repertoire of work and have already been invited to sing at Wells Cathedral, Somerset next Easter.

The choir will be performing coronation music as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations with the Archbishop of Wales, The Most Rev Dr Barry Morgan. For more information go to http://www.peterstonchurchchoir.com/.

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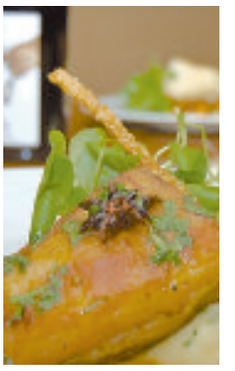

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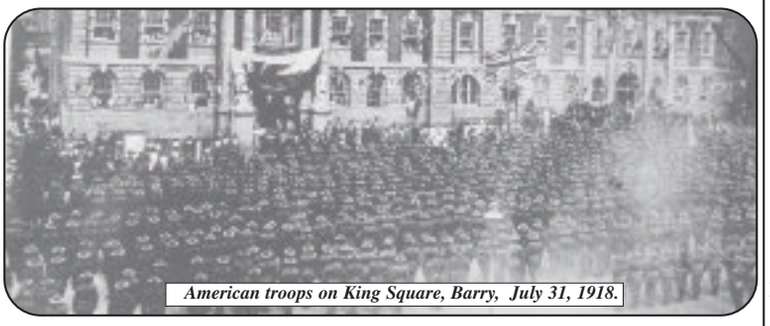
THE FACTS ABOUT THE. U.S. TROOPS IN BARRY



American troops on King Square, Barry, July 31, 1918.

IN response to Mr Short's letter in The GEM, which quoted me as verifying that the first arrival of American troops on European soil during the First World War was at Barry, may I respond by saying that this was not the case. It is a myth that has grown up over the years.

The iconic photograph of the American troops on King Square was actually taken on July 31 – but by June of the previous year 14,000 U.S. soldiers were already in France, and by May 1918, the number had risen to over a million, half of them being on the front lines.

They had fought several battles at Cantigny, Belleau Wood and Hamel during May, June and early July of 1918.

The Americans stayed for only a short while in Barry in July 1918, disembarking at the Docks, marching to King Square to be paraded by their Colonel Mortimer and given an official reception before returning to their ships.

Contrary to what Mr Short writes, the first American troops to arrive in Britain during WW1 did actually land at Liverpool. The Horse Battalion of the 1st Div Ambulance Train, Field Hospitals 2 and 12, other elements of 1 Sanitation Train (Medical) and 1 and 2 Military Police Companies (all 1st Division) arrived in Liverpool on 1 and 3 September 1917.

The first combat troops to arrive in Britain were elements of the 9th Infantry Regiment (2nd Division), who arrived in Liverpool on October 3rd 1917 and others in Glasgow at this same time.

Neither were the American troops in WW1 referred to as 'GIs' during this conflict, but 'Doughboys'. This description dates back to the Mexican–American War of 1846–48.

'GI' was used later as a term describing a US soldier or an item of their equipment. The term is often thought to be an initialisation of 'Government Issue' or 'General Infantryman' but the origin of the term is in fact 'Galvanized Iron' after the letters that were stamped on U.S. Army metal trash cans.

During World War I, US soldiers sardonically referred to incoming German artillery shells as 'GI cans'. During the 1930s it was somehow assumed that GI stood for Government Issue and the term was applied to other equipment and the soldiers themselves. The term reached even farther use as its usage spread with the American troops during World War II.

Should readers wish to see WW2 GIs, I would suggest they join us on Barry Waterfront on June 16-17, where a living history weekend will pay tribute to the GIs who were stationed in the area 70 years ago during the Second World War.

We also hope to stage a civic ceremony on June 15, to dedicate a plaque on King Square to the memory of those American troops.

DR JONATHAN HICKS
Barry

PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, *6pm on May 8 at Palmerston Community and Learning Centre.*

RHOOSE *police surgery, April 29 at the Rhoose Police Office, Stewart Road Community Centre at 3pm.*

DINAS POWYS PACT, *May 14 in St Mary's Church Hall at 7pm.*

CORNERSWELL PACT, *May 17 in Penarth Leisure Centre at 7pm.*

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Vale Ramblers take leisurely Easter stroll

WITH quite a few Vale Ramblers away, there was a good turnout for the figure of eight Easter walk in the Cowbridge area.

The first half of the walk took us from Cowbridge along a wooded path to Llanblethian where we picked up the path that took us over the fields to Llandough.

The black hawthorn was plentiful along the way, the white blossom heralding the arrival of spring, along with the primroses, wild garlic and the daffodils which we saw along the way.

After leaving Llandough, and a coffee stop along the way, we came out in by Plas Llanmihangel, which has changed little since the 16th Century. After having a leisurely stroll around the grounds of the beautiful 13th century church, we made our way along the road to Siginstone, before crossing the fields once more and arriving at Llysworney.

There we made our way towards the lane that would bring us out by Crossways Manor, which is a 17th Century historic manor house.

At the crossroads with the Cross Inn, Llanblethian, the group split into two, those who were doing the walk in the afternoon, and those who were making their way back to Cowbridge to enjoy the rest of Easter Sunday at home.

After lunch, the now smaller group made their way to Newton Moor, then through the lovely village of Trerhingyll before making our way to Maendy and Prisk, until we came to Aberthin, and a welcome stop at the Farmers Arms, before making our way back along the road to Cowbridge.

The new summer programme is now available on the website – www.valeofglamorganramblers.co.uk.

The Wednesday evening walk start on April 11, the first walk will be a four-mile walk in the Llandough area, meeting at 7pm at the Town Hall car park, Cowbridge. **GF**

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PENARTH AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS NEWS

In steps of family who sheltered Owain Glyndwr

ELEVEN walkers (*and Pepper the spaniel*) joined Joy at Skenfrith Castle, which lies deep in the valley beside the Monnow River and was constructed in 1219 by Hubert de Burgh on the site of an earlier castle.

The castle was once surrounded by a 20-foot deep moat which fed the nearby mill on the south side of its walls, but by 1538 the place was abandoned and fell into ruins and is now cared for by CADW.

They crossed the river opposite The Bell, an old Welsh coaching inn, to Garway Court Farm, before going steeply downhill to St Michael's Church at Garway.

This has been a holy site since a Celtic church stood in the field behind the present church in 600AD and in a private garden opposite stands a stone dovecote inscribed 1326.

In glorious sunshine, the group moved on through Garway and climbed to Garway Hill.

Below on the northern side in the valley lay Kenchurch Court which has been in the Lucas-Scudamore family for a thousand years.

Ralph Scudamore came to Herefordshire from Normandy and built a castle in Ewyas Harold for Edward the Confessor in 1042.

It is said that the family sheltered Owain Glyndwr, when he being hunted by the English army.

On April 21, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a nine-mile hard walk at Pontneddfechan taking in the waterfalls; contact Clive on 029 2065 4156.

On April 22, meet at 9.30am at Cogan for an 8.5-mile easy walk along part of the Brecon canal; contact Robin on 029 2051 4051.

Membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 02920 219102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Greener Vale is FoE's aim

BARRY and Vale Friends of the Earth support the Transition Towns Movement and local campaigns to retain the historic nature of Cowbridge town.

The Vale Council, Environment Agency and Welsh Government must take action against fracking; FoE believe we can achieve a Co2 free, greener Vale.

Stronger measures should be taken against the increasingly blatant theft of metal, by all and sundry.

It is this metal theft which is helping to power the Chinese economy and it is apparent that Chinese money is behind the companies wanting to further despoil the environments of the Vale.

Barry and Vale FoE Group will meet, for the last time before the local elections, on May 1, in the Castle Hotel and are only disappointed that election hustings may not take place.

Keith Stockdale, Barry and Vale FoE Co-ordinator.

WRITE IN!

● WE welcome your news, views and sports items. Please send them to us at: **gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk** (Tel: 01446 774484)

ABOVE: NICOLE PECK.

Local students win silver in competition

CARDIFF and Vale College is celebrating after scooping silver prizes in prestigious national competitions.

TRACY MORGAN.

Nicole Peck (19), who lives in Rhoose, came second in the World Skills Wales All-Wales Hairdressing finals, held at the Coleg Powys Brecon campus.

Nicole impressed judges with a Strictly Come Dancing-themed hair up and a military precision cut and colour on a block.

She will also have the opportunity to go on to represent the college at the UK finals of World Skills.

Tracy Morgan (35), who lives in Cardiff, came second in the Beauty Therapy Skills Wales competition hosted by Coleg Morgannwg. The Complementary Therapy student won her prize in the aromatherapy competition and will now hopefully go on to the World Skills UK competition for beauty therapy.

Skills Competition Wales is a new contest, organised by the Welsh Government in preparation for World Skills UK – regional heats were held at the Academi, Cardiff and Vale College's Barry-based training salon, where CAVC student Savanagh Feal came third.

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Small country, big difference!

TRAVEL and tourism students at Cardiff and Vale College travelled to the smallest country on mainland Africa – The Gambia – to witness the big difference that Kotu Trust is making in local communities.

They travelled to the west African country as part of their Welsh Baccalaureate, to take part in community projects and exprience a different culture.

The three BTEC Level 3 Diploma students; Kate Heath (18), Shikira Akhtar (17) and Amber Mahoney (19), cycled the distance between Cardiff and London on an exercise bike, cheered on by fellow students, to raise money to pay towards the trip. They also received a generous donation from Penarth Round Table.

On their visit, they worked with local schools and communities who are being sponsored by Kotu Trust; a charity that aims to improve education and relieve poverty.

The students organised activities and lessons for the African children, and also set up a pen-pal scheme.

They took 130 letters from teenagers from the local schools, along with a photo of each one to bring back to college and get fellow students to reply.

Shikira, from Barry, who vows to give some of her Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) to Kotu Trust each month after her Gambian experience, said: "The experience has made me appreciate the little things in life which I used to take for granted; a mobile phone, a double bed, a colour TV.

"The students in Gambia were so happy and grateful to attend classes, even though they had very limited resources, and even had to share a pencil between three to complete their work."

The students also began an enterprising scheme while in The Gambia to raise as much funds as possible to give back to the communities and schools that they visited.

They bought material which they had made into pencil cases and make-up bags in the local market and, on returning to the college, they are now asking staff and students to make a donation of £3 per bag.

Each bag that is sold will cover 75 meals in a primary school.

Katy Wilmer, travel and tourism lecturer and course tutor at CVC, accompanied the students on the trip.

She said: "Witnessing first hand some of the work that Kotu Trust does was inspiring. We look forward to developing the links, sharing experiences and helping raise money for Kotu Trust in the future."

While the travel and tourism students were on their trip, A Level students got rocking and baking at the college to raise money for Kotu Trust. The students raised £236 as part of their 'working with others' Welsh Baccalaureate module, by organising a rock concert and having a bake sale in the reception of the college's City Road site.

The money raised equates to 11,000 Gambian Dalasi, which could pay for a young person's college fees for one year, or fund two children to attend primary school for a year.

Shikira Akhtar (17) of Barry, Amber Mahoney (19) and Kate Heath (18) with schoolchildren they met in The Gambia.

House party shut down

POLICE were called out over the weekend and closed down a party in Llantwit Major.

A police spokeswoman said: "Police were called to an address on Fairfield Close, Llantwit Major, at approximately 9:15pm on Saturday, April 14, following reports of anti-social behaviour.

"Upon attendance, officers found that a house party was taking place and immediately cancelled the event.

"Police want to remind residents that such incidents of anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and all reports of such activity will be taken seriously."

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Left and right take the centre stage!

TRADITIONAL political adversaries, local MP, Alun Cairns and the Shadow Chancellor, Ed Balls will join forces to run the London Marathon this weekend.

Alun Cairns is running to raise money for Mind in Barry and Atal y Fro, (Vale Women's Aid) while Ed Balls is running for Whiz Kids based in Morley and Outwood.

"Although we regularly disagree across the House of Commons Chamber, we were both were keen to show cross-party support for our local charities," Mr Cairns said.

"The number of MPs planning to run the Marathon has dropped off because of injuries and time commitments, but I am delighted that some of us have managed to stay well and to fit in the training.

ABOVE: The Vale MP lines up with the Shadow Chancellor.

"Mind does so much for people with mental health problems, ranging from a shoulder to cry on and help with benefit applications. We have worked together to help influence legislation for the benefit people with mental health needs.

"I have also had the privilege of seeing the first class support offered by Atal y Fro, the Vale's Women's Aid. They really come into their own when some domestic violence victims are at their most vulnerable.

"If anyone wishes to sponsor me, they can do so on my website or simply by contacting my office in Barry on 01446 403814."

RECORD SHOP HAS 'PURE NOSTALGIA' FOR SALE!

RETRO VIBE MUSIC independent record store will open at 9.30am this Saturday, April 21 in Barry.

Owners Claire Williams and Mark Owen, lifelong music fans, say they wanted to create the feel of an 'old school' record shop at 8A Vere Street.

"Buying records is so exciting and the trend for vinyl records has returned," they said.

"People want more than just a downloaded file name and music can be so much more than just a listening experience. A record gives you something to look at; plus the sound is 'in the moment' and organic – part of the charm is the sound as the needle hits the vinyl.

"Not all records were put onto CD and so we have some vintage records which you may not have heard for many years.

"We have tried to create a shop which has the same feel record shops used to have, plus you have the option to try before you buy. We are not precious about what we stock, we have 'all kinds of music for all kinds of people', a bit of everything!

"A selection of our stock is for sale, but our warehouse has at least 60,000 records which are ready for us to sort out and catalogue to eventually sell in the shop or online.

"We have found some real gems! Plus if you are stick for a gift or have friends or family who love music, but no longer have a record player, and some of the record sleeves are iconic, like works of art and look fantastic in a frame, a great original gift that won't break the bank!

"Vinyl records are a part of social history and all of our records have been pre-owned and have a tale to tell. We like to think that we sell a lot more than just music, we sell pure nostalgia! Call us on 01446 734483."

'Airport is a plane spotters' nightmare'

HAVING been employed by a few holiday charter companies as a pilot at Cardiff Airport for the last 25 years, I wish to applaud the letter in The GEM on March 29 written by David and Anne Watson, of Llantwit Major, who accurately described the decline in passenger numbers at Cardiff Airport, compared to the upsurge in passenger figures for Bristol Airport.

They also mentioned the fact that Vueling (a reputable Spanish low cost carrier) was coming to Cardiff this month.

Additional flights from any operator are very welcome, even though it would be more beneficial if a UK carrier came to Cardiff, because more jobs would be created within Wales.

I have good reason to believe that two UK airlines attempted to negotiate a reduction of passenger handing fees with Cardiff Airport management recently with a view to operating out of Cardiff.

I understand these discussions failed, with the airport not offering a reduction in these fees, which are the second highest in the UK.

Would it not be in the public interest if the Welsh Government negotiated with the airport owners to explore the possibility of finding some common ground, whereby the people of Wales would benefit from the prosperity of more aviation activity?

At present, the situation at Cardiff Airport can best be described as a 'plane spotters' nightmare'.

Philip Clarke,
Barry

• The GEM asked Steve Hodgetts, Planning and Commercial Director at Cardiff Airport, to comment on the situation.This is his response.

'Airport charges not a problem'

I was intrigued by Phillip Clarke's letter, which highlights a common theme and misconception.

Airlines are the key to passengers using the airport and they control the routes, frequencies and prices.

Since bmibaby decided to leave Cardiff, we have pitched the opportunity to more than 30 airlines, offering substantial incentives and discounts and only Vueling has been prepared to grasp that opportunity for this year.

The airport does not provide ground handling, as per European Union regulations, so those costs are outside our control but, like all airports with spare capacity, we discount our charges for new services and growth.

So let's lay the myth once and for all that charges are a problem or that we would not negotiate with any airline.

It is also important to state that Vueling, a carrier with a very high profile in Spain and across Europe, can still benefit the Welsh economy, and Welsh jobs, through inbound tourism which they are strongly focused on.

Titanic lesson in health and safety

I HAVE been watching the various episodes on television about the Titanic, this year being the sad 100th anniversary of the 1,500 lives lost.

It is now a recorded fact that cutting corners in safety margins for profits was a factor in the Titanic's ultimate demise, as well as the several young lives lost among its construction workforce during its construction.

Today, with our advanced health and safety regulations, and provided those regulations are not evaded, a ship like that could well survive disaster.

Unfortunately, the Coalition government are making noises to undo those regulations and return us to the days of the Titanic, for the benefit of the privileged few, and they may well succeed if we let them.

Do we want to go back to hose days? I certainly do not.

Marc Delaney,
Cowbridge

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£74.7 MILLION OVER NEXT SEVEN YEARS

Council unveils plans for investing in its schools

THE Vale Council is set to allocate a sum of £74.7 million to be spent on schools over the next seven years.

The proposal was being considered by the cabinet of the Vale Council yesterday (Wednesday)

In a report, members were told that the Vale Council's 21st Century Schools Strategic Outline Programme (the original SOP) had been submitted to the Welsh Government in December 2010, and at the time the Welsh Government was funding 70 per cent of the budget.

However, in July 2011 the Minister For Education and Skills changed the formula, and the Welsh Government contribution was reduced to 50 per cent.

For councils such as the Vale, it was back to the drawing board.

The council's revised submission was successful in December 2012, and a conditional offer was received from the Welsh Government (subject to the approval of business cases for each scheme and statutory approvals where applicable) for £10.48 million of government for a £20.96 million project to enhance various schools in Llantwit Major and Barry.

In addition, the council expects to get up to £33,360,650 of Welsh Government grant funding for the Penarth Learning Community (PLC), which represents a 70 per cent grant support rate, as the council secured this before the rules changed.

The cabinet was told that the PLC remains on programme and, subject to planning, construction should start on site during autumn 2012.

The report says that in recent years, it has completed the £22 million remodelling of Cowbridge Comprehensive School and just over £2 million has been invested in the feasibility and design of Penarth Learning Community.

Now, the council is putting forward a proposal to spend a total of £74.73 million during the period 2012/13 to 2019/20.

This includes the aforementioned £33 million for the Penarth Learning Community, plus £14 million from the council's own resources) – a total of around £47.16 million.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

The £20.96 million for schools in Barry and Llantwit will also be spent during this seven-year period.

Finally, the council also plans to spend a total of £6.6 million on general asset renewal and improvements – again over the seven-year period, making a total of £74 million.

Asset renewal includes replacing boilers, roofs and windows, and other similar items.

The Penarth Learning Community is, clearly, the biggest project, and bringing St Cyres School, together with the three special schools of Erw'r Delyn, Ashgrove and Ysgol Maes Dyfan together one one campus is a major undertaking.

In fact, the report to cabinet reveals that the floor area of St Cyres and the new SEN School will be quite similar.

St Cyres is planned to have a floorspace of 11,850 sq metres, will the SEN school will have 7,950 sq metres.

However, there will also be a 'respite facility' for pupils at the SEN school to stay overnight, with 16 beds, and that will have a floorspace of 1,475 sq metres.

The number of pupils, however, is very different, with St Cyres having 1,280, and the SEN school having 205.

The new St Cyres School is scheduled to open in October 2014, and the SEN school in the New Year, 2015.

Looking at the £20 million that will be spent in Llantwit and Barry, the biggest portion will go to remodel Llantwit Major Comprehensive School, in a £12 million project that should happen between 2015 and 2019.

Ysgol Nant Talwg in Barry is set to be completed between 2014 and 2016, and the cost of that is an estimated £2.4 million.

In Llantwit, a sum of £1.79 million has been set aside to complete the new Welsh medium primary school, Ysgol Gymraeg Dewi Sant.

This school has just finished its first year, and will be expanding as new year groups start. The extra work is due to take place between 2015 and 2017.

Finally, a sum of £4.25 million has been set aside to "remodel two primary schools in the Barry cluster".

This will take place between 2014/15 and 2016/17, and the reorganisation aims to "reduce surplus capacity, and increase Welsh medium provision to meet continued increasing parental demand".

HUNT FOR SPECTACLE WEARER!

ACTRESS Helen Flanagan has launched Specsavers' nationwide search for the Spectacle Wearer of the Year 2012.

Helen, who has worn glasses since the age of nine, said: "I first realised I needed to wear glasses when I couldn't see the whiteboard at school.

"I was delighted, as I was always nagging my mum to get me a pair. I love trying out new looks with my glasses. They bring out a different side to me."

Now in their fifth year of supporting Kidscape, Specsavers will donate £1 for every eligible competition entry to the charity, as well as all proceeds from a high profile auction led by Specsavers ambassador Gok Wan, which will take place at the competition final in London in October.

One local specs wearer could follow in the footsteps of Danielle Piction, from Barry who was crowned Wales' Spectacle Wearer of the Year 2011.

Regional finalists will be announced in June and the grand final will be held in London in October 2012.

To enter, visit any Specsavers store or log on to www.specsavers.co.uk/competition.

ON THEIR MARKS FOR TY HAFAN!

PICTURED: (Left to right) Matt Pritchard, Jack Thomas (16) and Daignton.

FAMILIES and staff at Ty Hafan will be cheering on their champion runners taking part in the Virgin London Marathon on Sunday, April 22.

These include Matthew Pritchard of Dirty Sanchez fame, who seems to have been in constant training for events over the last couple of years, from which Ty Hafan has benefited, including the Bolton Iron Man Challenge in July 2011, a spokeswoman said.

He has also visited some of his young fans when they have been staying at the hospice, much to their delight.

Journalist Simon Farrington has also been putting in the miles in and around his home in the Vale, and has tested his stamina by taking part in a couple of half marathon events, as well as a clocking up a 20-mile training run.

Chris Thorne, originally from Cardiff, currently works in Dubai in the private office of HH Sheikh Saqer Bin Mohammed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan. He will be flying to the UK before the event.

Others taking part for Ty Hafan are South Wales Police officer of 23 years, Jonathan Evans from Bridgend and Gary Phillips from Swansea.

Ross Matthews from Barry was first on the reserve list, so when another Ty Hafan runner broke his foot he was immediately contacted and has been frantically training and raising sponsorship.

For more information about Ty Hafan visit www.tyhafan.org.

Out and About with The GEM

Vale MP's advice surgeries

VALE MP Alun Cairns, will be holding surgeries for advice and assistance this Friday, April 20, at the following locations:

9.30am-11am at the Lee Hall, Britway Road, Dinas Powys; 12pm-1.30pm at Morrisons, Penny Way, Barry; 2.30pm-4pm at the Gathering Place, Flemingston Road, St Athan.

Anyone in the Vale is welcome to attend, but surgeries are very busy and it is advisable to call 01446 403814 to make an appointment.

LLANTWIT MAJOR CRAFT & GIFT FAIRS

Don't forget the next event for lovely crafts and yummy snacks

Saturday 21st April - Llantonian Hall (behind the library) From 10am - 3pm

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Choir's fayre

Barry Ladies Choir spring fayre takes place at Wenvoe Community Centre on Saturday, April 21, at 10.30am-12.30pm.

Stalls include plants, toys, cakes. Admission 50p adults, children no charge. Free tea, coffee, squash with refills available.

Scouts' parade

THE 11th Barry Sea Scout Group will hold a parade on Sunday, April 22 (St George's Day).

It will march from King Square at 10.30am to St Mary's Church.

Mayor's coffee

THE Mayor of the Vale is holding a charity coffee morning at Committee Room 2, Civic Office, Holton Road, Barry, on Tuesday, April 24 at 10.30am-12 noon.

All proceeds will go to the Act for Fun charity.

Flat Holm talk

AT Llantwit Major Horticultural Society's next meeting on Wednesday, April 25 in the Llantonian Hall at 7.30pm, Mr Peter Sampson, vice-chairman of the Flat Holm Society, will be giving a slide show on their work at Flat Holm Island.

Just five miles from Barry, this tiny island is a different world, with a wealth of history and wildlife. Admission, refreshments and raffle, free. All are welcome, you do not have to be a member to attend. Contact secretary, Sylvia Geary, on 01446 792087.

Clairvoyant service

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church, Kenilworth Road, is holding a special clairvoyant flower service on April 25 at 7pm with Robert Beddoes; doors open 6.30pm, admission £3.

Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, April 25 at 11am, 'Stalling Down and Aberthin Meadows', five-mile extended walk starting at the Hare and Hounds, Aberthin.

Cancer Research quiz

BARRY committee of Cancer Research Cymru are holding a quiz night to raise funds into research on April 25, at Mount Sorrel Hotel, Barry, at 8pm.

Entrance fee is £2 per person, payable at the door. Everyone welcome.

Gardening advice

THE next meeting of the Cowbridge Gardening Club will be the annual general meeting and seedling evening to be held in the Lesser Hall on Thursday, April 26 at 7.30pm.

Big Screen

BIG SCREEN'S next presentation is *My Week With Marilyn* (Cert 15) which will be shown on Thursday, April 26 at 7.30pm in the Town Hall.

Colin Clark (Eddie Redmayne), an employee of Sir Laurence Olivier (Kenneth Branagh), documents the tense interaction between Olivier and Marilyn Monroe (Oscar-nominated Michelle Williams) during a London production of the *The Prince and the Showgirl.*

Tickets £3 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Eisteddfod concert

A CHORAL evening with Dowlais Male Voice Choir, Gower College Swansea Ensemble, Daisy Evans, soprano and Sian Evans (BBC Radio) will take place at Bradenstoke Hall, St Donat's Castle on April 27 at 7.30pm.

Proceeds in aid of the National Eisteddfod appeal.

Tickets £15. Contact Glenys Bellin on 01656 649085.

Clock appeal

MARK LLEWELLYN, soloist, presents an evening of entertainment replicating hits by Shirley Bassey, Tom Jones and David Alexander; plus rock and pop disco and raffle at the Llantwit Major Rugby Club on April 28 at 7.30pm.

All funds go to 'help keep our clock ticking'.

Tickets £10, available from the Town Hall and the Rugby Club.

Screening advice

A SCREENING engagement practitioner from Public Health Wales will be available to give information and advice on breast and bowel screening on April 28, at The Senior Health Shop Age Concern, 38 Holton Road, Barry (10am-12 noon).

Information leaflets will be available. Contact 01446 732385 for further details.

Village rallies to Lesotho

AN afternoon tea and crafts will be held in St Hilary village hall between 3pm and 5pm on Sunday, May 6.

All funds raised will be donated to St Garards School in Lesotho, Aftrica, and teachers from the school will also be present.

To celebrate May Day, there will be dancing around the maypole on the village green at 5pm and at 8pm there will be a quiz in the Bush Inn.

Hunt auction

A Glamorgan Hunt auction takes place at Wern Wen Farm, Trebettyn, Llansannor, CF71 7RX, at 7pm on Friday, May 11. Viewing from 4pm.

Equestrian items, prints, books, clothing and items of general interest. Free entry. Telephone 01446 760477.

Revealing portraits

A BETWEEN the Lines exhibition by Barry artist Glyn Pooley "draws the community together through the medium of portraits through art" at Cardiff Bay.

It aims to give an insight into what motivates individuals who actively contribute to the community and how they inspire others.

There are two showings – at the Senedd building on May 7–11 and at the Pierhead building on June 1–28.

Vale AM's surgery

THE Vale of Glamorgan AM, Jane Hutt, is holding a surgery on Friday, April 20, from 4pm to 6pm at Trinity Church Hall, Trinity Street, Barry. No appointment is necessary

Family service at All Saints

ALL Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth, is holding a family service this Sunday, April 22, at 10am, on the theme of encountering the risen Lord Jesus.

The worship will be suitable for all ages and refreshments are served after the service. All are welcome.

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email: phillip.williams@btinternet.com

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ONLY VALE KIDS ALOUD PROJECT
(ar gychwyn canu)

GYDA'R Eisteddfod yn prysur agosau, mae ysgolion ardal Bro Morgannwg wedi derbyn rhagor o wybodaeth am brosiect cyffrous Only Vale Kids Aloud, sy'n rhan o'r paratoadau ar gyfer cyngerdd agoriadol Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg eleni.

Mae'r ysgolion yn y broses o roi gwybod i rieni am y cyfle i fod yn ran o'r côr arbennig hwn o blant oed cynradd, a fydd yn rhannu llwyfan gydag Only Men Aloud, a sêr y rhaglen dalent boblogaidd, Britain's Got Talent, Only Boys Aloud, ar lwyfan y Pafiliwn nos Wener Awst 3.

Bydd y plant yn ymarfer yn rheolaidd dros y misoedd nesaf wrth baratoi ar gyfer profiad bythgofiadwy – a fydd hefyd yn cael ei ddangos yn fyw ar S4C. Tim Rhys-Evans, Cyfarwyddwr Cerddorol Only Men Aloud sy'n gyfrifol am ddod â'r tri chôr ynghyd, ac fe fydd nifer o aelodau allweddol o Only Men Aloud yn gyfrifol am hyfforddi a mentora'r cantorion ifanc.

Meddai Tim, "Roeddem ni'n awyddus i greu côr o blant lleol ar gyfer yr Eisteddfod eleni, gan roi cyfle i blant yr ardal brofi'r wefr o berfformio ar lwyfan o safon byd-eang yn eu hardal leol nhw.

"Gobeithio y bydd hyn yn eu sbarduno ac yn eu hysbrydoli i barhau i ganu a pherfformio, a phwy â wˆyr, efallai bod rhai o enillwyr yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol dros y degawdau nesaf yn aelodau o Only Vale Kids Aloud. Y gobaith mwyaf yw rhoi profiad heb ei ail i blant a phobl ifanc, a'u cael nhw i fwynhau canu corawl, a thrwy hynny barhau â'r traddodiad hollbwysig hwn sydd gennym ni yma yng Nghymru."

Bydd yr Eisteddfod yn coladu'r wybodaeth gan ysgolion dros yr wythnosau nesaf ac fe fydd ymarferion yn digwydd yn ystod tymor yr haf. Mae modd prynu tocynnau ar gyfer y cyngerdd arbennig hwn yn barod. Ewch i'r wefan – www.eisteddfod.org.uk – neu ffoniwch y linell docynnau ar 0845 4090 800, ond brysiwch – mae'r tocynnau'n gwerthu'n gyflym.

Cofiwch hefyd am y cynigion arbennig ar docynnau Maes eleni, gyda thocynnau rhatach ar gael i'w prynu cyn 1 Gorffennaf. Mae'r manylion i gyd ar wefan yr Eisteddfod. Cynhelir Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Bro Morgannwg ar dir hen faes awyr Llandwˆ ger Y Bontfaen a Llanilltud Fawr o Awst 4-11.

Only Vale Kids Aloud choir details announced

WITH the National Eisteddfod fast approaching, schools in the Vale have received information about the exciting Only Vale Kids Aloud project, which is part of the preparations for the Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod's opening concert later this year.

Schools are in the process of contacting parents with children interested in being part of this unique

choir of primary age children, who will share the Pavilion Stage with Only Men Aloud, and the stars of Britain's Got Talent, Only Boys Aloud, on Friday August 3.

The children will be rehearsing regularly over the next few months for this memorable experience – which will also be shown on S4C.

Only Men Aloud's Musical Director, Tim Rhys-Evans, is responsible for bringing the three choirs together, and key members of Only Men Aloud will be coaching and mentoring the young singers.

Tim says, "We wanted to create a choir of local schoolchildren for this year's concert, so that children in the area could experience the thrill of of performing on a world-class stage in their locality, and who knows, there may be some future Eisteddfod winners in the choir at this year's opening concert?

"Our greatest hope is to make sure they enjoy choral singing, and this will strengthen this important tradition here in Wales."

Eisteddfod organisers will be collating the information from schools over the next few weeks and rehearsals will be held during the summer term.

Tickets are already available to buy for this special evening. Go to: www.eisteddfod.org.uk, or ring the ticket line on 0845 4090 800 – but hurry – tickets are selling quickly!

The Eisteddfod also has a range of ticket offers for the Maes during the week, with an early bird discount offer on day tickets until July 1.

All details are on the website. The Vale of Glamorgan National Eisteddfod is held on the old airfield at Llandow near Cowbridge and Llantwit Major from August 4-11.

GWENLLÏAN CARR

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D718.

- **£2,000:** 165601.
- **The rollover, which now stands at £8,500, was not won this week.**
- **£10:** 224297,161650, 904605, 932475, 475611, 880026, 716282, 140019, 680006, 132610, 742152, 777591, 184934, 838524, 128228, 592354, 304410, 553025, 845595, 585802.
- **£5:** 803825, 238727, 538682, 134217, 496461, 989858, 507266, 811472, 205351, 419005, 734638, 823490, 545177, 274867, 206764, 686833, 846798, 584011, 800216, 863260, 364918, 786554, 716104, 666530, 193548, 151153, 466762, 510970, 776493, 961115, 249989, 500897, 450441, 509977, 441776, 314350, 509715, 429385, 381400, 542015, 769277, 386480, 837799, 833668, 784782, 628305, 768634, 346035, 370096, 612827, 945355, 567534, 704361, 764225, 165813, 483142, 942283, 850913, 170958, 416551, 681919.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please call telephone 02920 672062.

Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 - Section 85

VACANCIES FOR LAY MEMBERS OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

Do you want to know more about the way your council's finances operate? Could you offer a strong and independent voice on your local authority's financial affairs? Are you interested in local government and want to play a role in scrutinising how it works?

Bridgend County Borough Council and Vale of Glamorgan Council are looking for citizens to sit as independent members of their audit committees. Our audit committees are important because they:

- **Review, scrutinise and issue reports and recommendations in relation to the council's financial affairs.**
- **Review, scrutinise and issue reports and recommendations on the authority's risk management, internal control and corporate governance arrangements.**
- **Oversee its audit arrangements and review its financial statements.**

Sometimes we will also give other relevant functions to our audit committees.

Initially, we want to appoint a single lay member to each council but further appointments may be made in the future. We are inviting applications from anyone who would be interested in these positions. In order to be eligible applicant should:

Recognise and understand the value of the audit function.
Have no business connection with the council.
Have knowledge of how local government functions.
Display independence of thinking and unbiased attitudes.

When making our appointment we will consider:

- Your political independence.
- Your ability to meet the time commitment involved.
- Your ability to understand and weigh up evidence.
- Your understanding of local government.

If you believe you meet the above requirements and are interested in becoming a lay member of the audit committee of either Bridgend County Borough Council or The Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council, you can obtain more information and an application form by contacting the respective officers before 27 April 2012:

Bridgend County Borough Council

The Monitoring Officer
Legal & Democratic Services
Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB
Telephone: 01656 643106
Or E-mail: Andrew.Jolley@bridgend.gov.uk

Vale of Glamorgan Council

The Monitoring Officer
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU
Telephone: (01446) 700111
Or Email: phevans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Mesur Llywodraeth Leol (Cymru) 2011 - Adran 85

SWYDDI GWAG AR GYFER AELODAU LLEYG O'R PWYLLGOR ARCHWILIO

A ydych chi am wybod mwy am drefniadau ariannol eich cyngor? A allech chi gynnig llais cryf ac annibynnol ar faterion ariannol eich awdurdod lleol? A oes gennych chi ddiddordeb mewn llywodraeth leol ac awydd i gyfrannu at y gwaith o graffu ar sut y mae'n gweithio?

Mae Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr a Chyngor Bro Morgannwg yn chwilio am ddinasyddion i fod yn aelodau annibynnol o'u pwyllgorau archwilio. Mae ein pwyllgorau archwilio'n bwysig oherwydd eu bod yn:

- **Adolygu a chraffu ar faterion ariannol y cyngor, ac yn cyflwyno adroddiadau ac argymhellion yngl?n â hwy.**
- **Adolygu a chraffu ar drefniadau'r awdurdod ar gyfer rheoli risg, rheolaeth fewnol a llywodraethu corfforaethol, ac yn cyflwyno adroddiadau ac argymhellion yngl?n â hwy.**
- **Goruchwylio ei drefniadau archwilio ac adolygu ei ddatganiadau ariannol.**

Weithiau byddwn yn rhoi swyddogaethau perthnasol eraill i'n pwyllgorau archwilio hefyd.

I ddechrau, rydym am benodi un aelod lleyg i bob cyngor, ond mae'n bosibl y gwneir penodiadau eraill yn y dyfodol. Rydym yn gwahodd ceisiadau gan unrhyw un sydd â diddordeb yn y swyddi hyn. Er mwyn bod yn gymwys, dylai'r ymgeisydd:

Gydnabod a deall gwerth y swyddogaeth archwilio.
Bod heb unrhyw gysylltiad busnes â'r cyngor.
Meddu ar wybodaeth am sut y mae llywodraeth leol yn gweithredu.
Dangos agwedd ddiduedd a'r gallu i feddwl yn annibynnol.

Pan fyddwn yn penodi byddwn yn ystyried:

- Eich annibyniaeth wleidyddol.
- Eich gallu i fodloni'r ymrwymiad amser sy'n gysylltiedig.
- Eich gallu i ddeall a phwyso a mesur tystiolaeth.
- Eich dealltwriaeth o lywodraeth leol.

Os ydych chi'n credu eich bod yn bodloni'r gofynion uchod a bod gennych ddiddordeb mewn bod yn aelod lleyg o bwyllgor archwilio Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr neu Gyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Bro Morgannwg, gallwch gael mwy o wybodaeth a ffurflen gais trwy gysylltu â'r swyddogion perthnasol cyn 27 Ebrill 2012:

Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr
Y Swyddog Monitro
Gwasanaethau Cyfreithiol a Democrataidd
Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel
Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr, CF31 4WB
Ffoniwch: 01656 643106
Neu anfonwch e-bost at: Andrew.Jolley@bridgend.gov.uk

Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Y Swyddog Monitro
Y Swyddfeydd Dinesig,
Holton Road, Y Barri, CF63 4RU
Ffoniwch: (01446) 700111
Neu anfonwch e-bost at: phevans@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

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Grab it recently completed Highfield Close site in joint venture with Premier Construction. Beautiful properties with sea views and secure entrance - Viewing highly recommended!

Interiors from the new development in Highfield Close, Barry

Grab it has grown into an established company now working with local authorities and councils whilst still maintaining its original plant hire services.

Future's new Vertex tile effect roof

THE Vertex tile roof bridges the gap between conservatory and extension, creating a beautiful room for all year round living while working in perfect harmony with your home.

Your conservatory is not only a significant investment, it is also something that you can expect to give you pleasure for many years and will also become one of the most versatile living areas of your home with endless uses – dining room, playroom, office, garden room or even a second lounge.

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The roof has a slate effect that will match the roof of most houses and comes with a choice of colour finishes.

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COTTRELL PARK LADIES NEWS

Ladies egg-cellent on the golf course!

FORTY ladies from Cottrell Park Golf Club recently played a 12-hole Texas Scramble, on a cold blustery day.

The winners were Helen Poole, Andrea Caines, Mary Watkins and Geraldine Twamley with a gross 49, net 41.7. Second were Margaret Thomas, Anne Birt, Norma Fryer and Elaine Mais with gross 52, net 42.3.

Fifty ladies enjoyed a lunch that followed the competition; the flower arrangements on the tables were provided by Angela Padfield and were won by the lucky ladies who had a red dot under their saucer.

After the Easter raffle, Judy James, ladies' captain presented the prizes of Easter eggs to the winning teams.

The winter eclectic trophy is usually presented at this lunch but unfortunately the winner, Celine Chew, was not available to accept it.

There was also a tie for the winter league trophy between Jenny McGlyne, Jan Thomas and Sian Lovell and this will be decided by a knock-out competition. Judy thanked every one for attending. **CB**

Vale team's showpiece at RHS show

VALE garden designer Jane Grehan of Dewin Designs, sculpture graduate David Lewis and Cardiff based landscaping company Broxton & Moruzzi Landscaping Ltd are building a show garden at the 8th RHS Show Cardiff in the parklands of Cardiff Castle this weekend, April 20-22 – with a design called 'Regeneration' which re-uses waste materials generated by landscaping projects.

ABOVE: Jane Grehan.

Jane said: "The work has been inspired by the shape of an unfurling fern frond as it comes to life in spring, embodying the regeneration of plants as well as waste material such as pallets, slate, logs and grates.

"The garden is enclosed by a painted pallet fence that supports trailing and foliage plants.

"The inner section of the garden has a curving Welsh slate wall that unfurls around a built-in seat. Walls radiate from this central feature to support stepped planting areas.

"Spring flowering plants and evergreen shrubs enhance the garden's strong shapes and reinforce the regeneration theme."

Cardiff provides the scenic setting for the first RHS outdoor show of the season, with blooms from nurseries across the country, show gardens from Welsh teams, an abundance of guidance and inspiration from the experts during three days of colour and entertainment aimed at the serious horticulturalist and the day tripper alike.

This year, the event features in National Gardening Week, the RHS's bid to get the nation gardening.

Contact 0844 581 0810 or: www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff.

NEWS FROM THE FONMON APIARY

Things starting to buzz in the hives!

THINGS are beginning to get under way in the apiary now. Of the six hives that came through the winter, I have taken two of then to populate the Aberthaw apiary .

It is my intention to use the bees' desire to swarm to enable the stocks in Fonmon to be increased. How will this be done? Now that the days are lengthening, and forage (ie flowers, fruit blossom etc) is available to the bees, the queen bee has stepped up her egg laying and the population within the hive will increase rapidly.

The beekeeper has to carry out regular inspections, whereby he/she can look to the needs of the bees, the main requirement is that of room.

The provision of boxes containing drawn out honeycomb will usually suffice, giving the queen more room to lay and for the bees to store more nectar and pollen.

However, should the bees feel that space is diminishing, they will start to rectify matters. Swarming is their answer to this situation.

This is where the regular inspections pay off, once the decision to swarm is undertaken, the bees will start to make large cells on the frames in the hive.

It is now that the beekeeper has to be on the alert if he/she wants to control things.

The queen cells, as they are known, can vary in number from two or three even up to a dozen or more. It is the use of these queen cells that will enable the beekeeper to increase the stocks at the apiary.

Using a Nucleus-Box (small version of a hive) to which has been added frames containing pollen and nectar and bees, a frame with one/two queen cells on it can be introduced. There is no queen in resident in this nucleus, and the bees within will be those that are described as nurse bees. Their task in any hive is to care for eggs, and to care for larvae (eggs that have hatched) plus look to the needs of the queen that will eventually appear.

The beekeeper will have to feed this nucleus as it will not have forager bees to do this. Given a little help from dame fortune, a new hive could well be on the cards.

This is a simplification of one method available to the beekeeper, others do exist.

The splitting of a hive showing signs of swarming is yet another approach; here the hive will be opened up and some frames will be taken out and transferred to another box. Each box should have 11 frames in it so new or previously used frames are brought in to give each box its full complement.

Timing and care are very important here if success is to be achieved. One of the boxes will be devoid of foraging bees because the flying foragers will go to the original site on which one of your boxes resides. Feeding of one or both hives may well be required.

Swarms are another way of making increase but, the beekeeper is trying to avoid this very thing at his/her own apiary. Note swarming is part of a bee's life cycle, it may not happen every year but at some point bees will swarm. This is, after all, how bees keep the species going.

Should anyone need a deeper understanding of my over simplification here, the internet is a very good source and one site worth a look for all things beekeeping is Dave Cushman A-Z – you could well spend the rest of your life there. You might even want to become a beekeeper.

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Locals meet Morse author at English Speaking Union

COLIN DEXTER, of Morse and crossword fame, was the very amusing and interesting speaker at the April literary lunch of the south Wales branch of the English Speaking Union.

The branch was also delighted to welcome the acclaimed artist, Andrew Vicari to the event. Membership is still growing, and more than 160 members and guests attended at the City Stadium.

For information on future events, contact Derek Morgan on 01656 669129.

Photos by **HEATHER MARCH**

Dan Clayton-Jones wanted the author's signature on some treasured first editions

Colin Dexter signing Morse books, helped by Lady Susan Inkin.

Lord Lieutenant Peter Beck was delighted to meet up with his old classics master

Enid Evans of Bonvilston enjoyed a chat with the author.

Colin Dexter with south Wales branch chairman, Derek Morgan.

World renowned artist Andrew Vicari, (right) who has local connections, with chairman Derek Morgan and Lyn Beck.

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Norwegian thriller is a thoroughly 'captivating piece'

SCREEN TALK

by **GARETH JAMIESON**

Follow Screen Talk on Twitter - @GEMScreenTalk

IN the last couple of years, the Scandinavian nations have decided to put the amenable, pine-and-snow personalities to the side and embrace the world of thrillers, murders and general skullduggery.

The success of their crime fiction, TV series and films (including the likes of the *Girl...* franchise, *The Killing* and *Wallander*) has seen a global rise in the interest of what this area of the world will conjure up next, with *Headhunters* being the latest to hit cinema screens.

Adapted from the book by Jo Nesbo, this Norwegian film tells the story of Roger Brown (Aksel Hennie) a corporate headhunter who moonlights as a top art thief; but he bites off more than he can chew, when he targets Clas Greve (Nikolaj Coster-Waldau), a man who doesn't take lightly to Roger's interest and who turns Roger from hunter to hunted...

The raft of remakes of Scandinavian films and TV shows merely highlights both the lack of imagination on the part of producers, but also a nod that, at present, the work they are producing is, by and large, more impressive than most English-language fare.

Headhunters is yet another example of this, a thriller on the surface but when scratched, reveals both a tenderness and a dark comedy that mkae it a highy refreshing watch. That's not to say the film softens its edges in any way, rather the adaptation of Jo Nesbo's novel manages to transfuse various elements onto the big screen without these elements distracting or detracting from the main story.

The film is very well acted, Aksel Hennie's turn as the lead protagonist a fine one that dances the line, and encompasses varying degrees of horror, humour and pathos.

It is a committed turn by the actor, one that sees him tested more physically than anything else, but he is more than up to the task, making the character of man seeing his facade of a life disappearing in front of his very eyes both appealing and rootable.

Oppposite him, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau (who will be better known to *Game Of Thrones* fans as the devilish Jaime Lannister) essays the role of Clas Greve with a cold hearted relish.

In many ways, the character is the antithesis of Roger, the slick suits masking who they really are, but Waldau brings a clinical precision that will make Hollywood bosses offer him villainous foreigners for at least the next three years. The other performances are all pitched perfectly, from Synnovy Macody Lund as the wife Roger feels is above him, to Julie Olgaard's woman on the side with a mysterious background and Eivind Sander's fence.

Morten Tyldum's direction, as you would expect, is clean and crisp, brimming with the imagery that the likes of *The Killing* and the *Girl...* films have perfected as their own, while he shows a keen ability to marshal the needs of a twisty story into something that, subtitles or no subtitles, is easy to follow.

Adapting Nesbo's novel, Lars Gudmestad and Ulf Ryberg do a sterling job, managing to balance the dark heart of the story with voyages into comedy and tragedy.

The film's concentration on Roger's lack of height and the complex it has given him recurs throughout while the character's descent into hell - via an outside toilet in one instance- is given extra heft by the writers' concentration on character.

Certainly the story hangs a little too much on convenient contrivance, while the reveal of Greve's endgame, while clever, feels a little too unrealistic despite the nature of the story; but, as thrillers go, *Headhunters* scores another direct hit for Scandinavia - await the poorly-executed American remake at your peril!

VERDICT - A cooly executed thriller that offers more, *Headhunters* is a slick piece of work that raises moralistic questions against a backdrop of living a life that is not our own. Strong performances and direction make this a captivating piece of work. *Highly recommended.*

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo* (2009), *Limitless* (2011)

Top Welsh racehorses on show at Ystrad Taf Fechan

TOP Welsh point-to-pointers *Chesnut Annie*, *Findlay's Find* and *Lady Myfanwy* all turned up at Ystradowen last Saturday, for the Ystrad Taf Fechan Hunt Steeplechases.

Beth Roberts' *Chesnut Annie* ran out a twenty lengths winner of the members' race, Myfanwy Miles' *Findlay's Find* failed by three parts of a length to catch *Midnight Diamond* in the £1,000 John Lovell Memorial men's open race, and *Lady Myfanwy* was a three lengths winner of the Aga ladies' open race.

Chesnut Annie, who took some time to warm to her task, brought her tally of wins to 34, which includes two hunter chases, and her rider *Sally Randell*, asked for a comment, said: "I was just glad to get her past the winning post today."

Findlay's Find, under Barry Denvir, made up a lot of ground on the second circuit but Mathew Barber on Nina Phillips' course winner *Midnight Diamond* was always in control, and he said: "I knew my horse would stay but it was his jumping that won us the race."

Lady Myfanwy who, according to her rider Claire Hart, is "a little star", was recording her 27th win between-the-flags and she also has four hunter chase wins to her credit.

Paul Miles says that the AGA Ladies' Hunter Chase Final at Cheltenham on May 2 is her main target.

Duc De Normandie, partnered by Bridgend's Rachel Leyshon (18) finished a length in front of the tiring *Not To Berude* (Tom David) in the restricted race. However, after a steward's inquiry the positions were reversed on the grounds that *Duc De Normandie*, who had jumped the last two fences ahead of the pacemaking *Not To Berude*, had taken the ground of the 'runner-up' causing the experienced David 'having to snatch up his mount.'

Some racegoers thought that the stewards had over- reacted and had been too harsh on Leyshon, a comparative novice to David who was riding his 15th 'winner' of the season.

Towering Run, who had been pulled up at Lydstep on Bank Holiday Monday when having no chance of catching the winner *Superman De La Rue*, gave John Mathias his 10th winner of the season when coming home six lengths ahead of *Ace High Blue* in the intermediate race.

Bradley Gibbs, who rides out for Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, took the young horse maiden on Michael Bassett's *Coosan Lad*, which won by 20 lengths from *Hazarose*.

Coosan Lad, a six-year-old bay gelding, is trained by Luke Price, who was saddling his fifth winner of the season. Bradley brought his season's tally of wins to 11, and this includes a winner under rules.

Gareth Ball, 22, another of Tim Vaughan's work riders, notched-up his first winner when landing the aged horse maiden on Robert Evans' *Coole Abbey Major*, which won by a length from *Sueski*. Londoner Gareth, apparently known to his fellow jockeys as 'Brains', has had around 22 rides and was completing the course for just the second time.

Mr Evans, who couldn't remember the last time he had a winner, paid just £300 for *Coole Abbey Major* and said it cost him a lot more to bring the horse over from Ireland.

BRIAN LEE

The Farmers Arms... The Pub on the Pond!

NEW LOOK...NEW MENU...NOW OPEN!

A FAVOURITE VALE PUB IS BACK!

ONE of the Vale's best-known public houses, the Farmers Arms in St Bride's Major, is back in business and putting on a fresh face after a £250,000 refurbishment.

HUW JONES

The pub had established a strong reputation for excellent value food over many years, and its new landlord, Huw Jones, is aiming to continue that tradition in a setting that he believes has been greatly enhanced by the revamp – jointly funded by Punch Taverns and by Huw.

What is more, Huw understands what makes a Vale pub tick – a knowledge gained over 36 years in the trade, the last seven at the Sportsman's Rest in Peterston-super-Ely.

Huw told The GEM: "The Farmers Arms had become a little tired in appearance, so we have used the refurbishment to improve the interior, making it more open and giving customers more space, and also to address a few practical problems."

One of those problems was the old entrance, which was right on the main road. Now, anyone parking in the pub's ample car park can walk straight in via the new main entrance. Children and grannies no longer need to be shepherded along a busy road.

Disabled access has been tackled at the same time, and the pub is now completely compliant, through the new entrance and with new disabled toilets.

However, while Huw is delighted with the new-look interior, he knows that every pub will stand or fall on its food and drink.

He is confident that beer drinkers will be impressed, as the the accent is on real ale, with four hand pumps. Two will be for regulars, and two will be guest beers.

There will also be a wide range of lagers and, as Huw says, "a choice of wines from around the world".

When it comes to food, Huw believes in good value home cooking using local produce, and the Farmers Arms will have an all-day menu, with a variety of chef's specials, including fish dishes, including monkfish, marlin and skate.

There will be a two-course lunch at £10.95, and a special 'smaller portions' meal – often popular with older people, at £11 for two.

Huw believes in theme nights as well, and Tuesdays will be fish nights, with a meal and a pint at £8.95.

Wednesdays will be a 'pie and a pint' night, and Thursdays will be a 'curry and a cobra' night.

Another special offer, this time on Friday, is two steaks and a bottle of wine for just £25.

The pub will also be doing light breakfasts from 10am. Not the calorie-laden full English, but a tasty menu including croissants, eggs Benedict, and kippers – and also teas and coffees during the morning.

The restaurant.

Finally, of course, every country pub has its own take on a Sunday lunch, and the Farmers Arms will be offering beef, pork, lamb or turkey with all the extras, and a home-made special recipe gravy.

Huw is looking forward to returning the Farmers Arms to its former glory, and he anticipates that it will be a significant boost to the local economy.

He added: "I think that in total, this enterprise will be creating around 25 full and part time jobs in the Vale."

Not to mention buying all that local produce, of course.

PHILIP IRWIN

ABOVE: The bar retains many traditional features.

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Guides hold bakesale

THE 10th Barry Guides are holding a 'bakesale' and a tabletop sale on April 28 from 10am-12.30pm at the 10th Barry Guide Hall (opposite Romilly School). There will be tea, coffee and stalls. We really would appreciate your support.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00302/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Retention of replacement shop front with additional alterations (resubmission)
Location:/Lleoliad: 9A, Royal Buildings, Victoria Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Penarth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00326/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Re-design of previously approved 4 bed detached dwellings with double garages, under planning application 2006/00599/FUL at Brook Farm, Llanmaes, Plots 1 and 2
Location:/Lleoliad: Brook Farm, Llanmaes
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Affecting the Llanmaes

Conservation Area Consent /Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00330/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition and construction of a dilapidated single storey cottage to form a two storey living accommodation and change of use from C1 to C3
Location:/Lleoliad: The Cottage, The Red Lion Inn, Pendoylan
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Pendoylan

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00284/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Reinstate and repair portico to original specification
Location:/Lleoliad: Lansdowne House, 6, Plymouth Road, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00279/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: The proposal is to remove two columns from the kiosk to open up the front elevation onto the promenade. Also to remove three air vents and install four windows on two of the rear elevations overlooking Whitmore Bay, improving both the outlook from the unit and the view back from the beach itself
Location:/Lleoliad: The Promenade Cafe, The Promenade, Barry
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00304/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Affix memorial plaque to the exterior of the Town Hall
Location:/Lleoliad: Town Hall, Kings Square, Barry
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00328/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Works to provide pedestrian access on slipway
Location:/Lleoliad: RNLI Barry Dock Station (disused), Pierhead, Docks, Barry
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00316/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of condition No.12 of approved application 1995/00161/OUT to allow sale of Non-bulky Class A1 retail goods
Location:/Lleoliad: Units 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B, Brooklands Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00324/OUT
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of former hotel and construction of nine apartments including car parking & landscaping
Location:/Lleoliad: Sealawns Hotel, Slon Lane, Ogmore by Sea

Departure from Development Plan / Gwyro o'r Cynllun Datblygu

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2012/00316/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Variation of condition No.12 of approved application 1995/00161/OUT to allow sale of Non-bulky Class A1 retail goods
Location:/Lleoliad: Units 1A, 1B, 2A & 2B, Brooklands Retail Park, Culverhouse Cross

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk**

Dated: 19th April, 2012
Rob Thomas
Head of Planning and Transportation
The Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office,
Barry Docks,
Barry.
CF63 4RT

Dyddiedig: 19 Ebrill, 2012
Rob Thomas
Pennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Swyddfa'r Doc,
Dociau'r Barri,
Y Barri.
CF63 4RT

EISTEDDFOD YSGOL GYMRAEG SANT BARUC

MOLLY WINS THE PRIZE

CYNHALIWYD eisteddfod yr ysgol eleni ar ddydd Gwener yr 2il o Fawrth.

'Twti Ffrwti' sef Molly Cameron o lys Glyndwr oedd y bardd buddugol ac enillydd y gadair eleni. Enw'r gerdd fuddugol oedd 'Ar ben fy Hun' a ddaeth i'r brig allan o nifer o gerddi arbennig o dda. Rhoddodd Mrs Ann Evans, y beirniad, ganmoliaeth fawr i bob un o gerddi blwyddyn 6. Aeth yr ail wobr i Caitlin Coles, y drydedd i Mari Kingsley a'r bedwaredd wobr i Rhys Jeffrey. Darllennwch y gerdd fuddigol isod.

Eisteddfod results:

THE winning poet was 'Twti Ffrwti', whose real name is Molly Cameron, from Glyndwr house. She won the first prize and the chair for her poem, entitled 'Ar ben fy Hun'.

The judge, Mrs Ann Evans, gave high praise to the work of every child in year-6. Second place went to Caitlin Coles, third to Mari Kingsley and fourth to Rhys Jeffrey. Here is the winning poem:

Ar ben fy hun…

**Gweld arch Dad yn cael ei gollwng yn y ddaear,
Gweld perthnasau yn crio yn ddi-baid,
Gweld ei garreg-fedd yn cael ei gorchuddio fel
plentyn yn cael ei gorchuddio gyda blanced,
Ond roeddwn i eisiau bod…
Ar ben fy hun!**

**Clywed fy nghalon yn pwmpio,
Clywed murmur traed yn agosau at y capel, fel llygod yn crwydro yn y nenlofft,
Clywed y gwynt yn byrlymu,
Ond roeddwn i eisiau bod…
Ar ben fy hun!**

**Teimlo fy llygaid yn diferu gyda d_r,
Teimlo fy ngwaed yn berwi,
Teimlo ias yn afon yn rhedeg lawr fy nghefn fel
gwaed yn mynd trwy fy ngwythienau,
Ond roeddwn i eisiau bod…
AR BEN FY HUN !!!**

Tlws y cerddor/Musician's trophy

CYNHALIWYD eisteddfod yr ysgol ar ddydd Gwener yr 2il o Fawrth ac enillydd Tlws y Cerddor eleni oedd Rhys Jeffrey o lys Llywelyn.

Derbyniodd e'r tlws am ei gyfraniad cerddorol i Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc. Mae Rhys yn canu, chwarae'r gitâr, ac yn aelod ffyddlon o gôr yr ysgol. Llongyfarchiadau mawr iddo.

The winner of the 'Musician's Trophy' was Rhys Jeffrey.

He received the trophy for his musical contribution to Ysgol Gymraeg Sant Baruc during his time in the school. Rhys sings, plays the guitar and is a faithful member of the school choir.

Ed Evans walkers raise £1,200 for research

THE Ed Evans Foundation held its walk on Easter Monday, despite the wet and windy weather, when 68 brave walkers took to the coast, the majority walking six miles and the hardy few walked 12 miles.

Although it rained continually, a good time was had by all and some very wet bodies returned to the Horseshoe for a very worthy drink.

The event raised more than £1,200 for brain tumour research and 682 miles were walked, which will be included as one of the many walks taking place around the world raising awareness to the plight of brain tumour patients, their families and friends. I big thank you to all who took part.

SE

Rotarians present cheque to centre

THE Rotary Club of Barry have made a donation to the centre in Holton Road, Barry which gives help and support to elderly people in the Vale.

President-nominee Peter Battle recently visited the centre to present a cheque for £590 to Nona Hexter, Ageing Well coordinator for the Vale. The money will be used to purchase some furniture for the centre.

Turn heads this spring...

SINCE opening her own hairdressing salon earlier this year, Beth Daniel has found that lots of 'local' regulars have re-acquainted themselves, and she has been delighted to welcome new customers.

In fact, Beth is thrilled with the response to date.

She is privileged to be one of the selected salons to offer 'The Best' – better known as the 'GK Brazilian Blow Dry Straightening System'.

This treatment starts from £70 and is suitable for all hair types.

The cutting edge of all aspects of hairdressing is assured at Beth's unisex salon.

Please call soon at 20, Dunraven Place, Bridgend. Telephone 01656 750108.

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GK

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BRIDGEND
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Friday 9am-7pm
Saturday 9am-4pm

Female pulchritude at Miss Wales

ABOVE: Ceryn Lawless from Pontyclun. BELOW: Hiral Shah from Llandough.

ABOVE: Janthia Morgan from Ogmore Vale. BELOW: Maesteg's Courtney-Lee Morris.

ABOVE: Jessica Thomas from Bridgend.

ABOVE: Jessica O'Sullivan from Barry.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS. *(Telephone 07791 228684).*

SIX young women from The GEM's circulation area took part in the Miss Wales competition last week. Unfortunately, none of them made the podium – but then, beauty has always been subjective!

Fitness expert looking for volunteers for new weight loss programme

LOCAL fitness expert Claire Hendy is seeking seven '*tried everything and failed*' female volunteers, who are willing to invest 28 days of their time and effort – in exchange for more than £200 worth of training, coaching and nutritional advice.

The programme promises to bring about a huge change in their appearance, weight and lifestyle

Claire said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who is 100 per cent serious about finally getting the results that have always eluded them. The course may be free financially, but I expect every participant to pay their way in effort and attitude.

"This course will strip pounds of unwanted body-fat, make you much stronger, fitter, more flexible – in fact, your body will look completely different!"

Classes are run in the Pontyclun and Talbot Green, Miskin and Pendoylan area.

The Port Talbot-born entrepreneur said: "I decided to launch the 'Health in a Nutshell Program' to finally destroy the myth that you need to spend hours at the gym in order to get results.

"The seven volunteers will be blown away by the results, which will be used in data in my upcoming book"

Mrs Hendy, launched her fitness company, Figureout Fatloss in January, after trialing her program first on herself and then with six people before Christmas 2011.

Claire has had a long struggle with maintaining a healthy body weight, especially after having four children in eight years.

She said: "My aim is to educate people and take them away from the 'one size fits all' approach. For instance, not many people know that low fat yoghurts are actually loaded with sugar and high heels can make your stomach stick out.

"All I'm asking for are seven people who have been on diets, been to the LBT classes, tried the DVDs, and who really want to get maximum results with minimum fuss – without counting points, without weighing things and without spending hours at the gym".

Anyone interested should contact Claire via email at ***claire@hendyuk.com*** *or phone 07999 411475*

WANTED... FigureOut fatloss

- 7 Lucky Female volunteers
- Willing to invest 28 days time & effort
- FREE training, coaching, nutritional advice to the value of £200!
- Must be 100% serious & committed to achieving their fitness goals

Join this 'Health in a Nutshell' program...

Classes: Pontyclun/Talbot Green, Pendoylan & Miskin
by contacting Claire on 07999 411475
or via email: claire@hendyuk.com

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I am able to offer counselling within the areas of Barry, Penarth, Dinas Powys and Sully.

This service is mainly aimed for those who may struggle to leave their homes due to disability, mobility, mental health reasons or lack of transport. I have experience of working with a wide range of issues.

I also have more than nine years of care experience in working with older people within a care worker capacity.

Here is a list of some of my experienced areas within counselling: *anxiety, abuse, depression, disabilities, stress, trauma, workplace issues, loss, identity issues, bereavement, low self esteem and confidence.*

Counselling is a safe place where you can offload and explore ways to cope better with life's challenges.

Contact Kirsten on 07818 742964, or ***www.kirsten@clarity-counselling.co.uk.***

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Lorraine - 01446 407002

Rhoose - 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre, Celtic Way
Helen - 01446 750738

Penarth
5.30pm & 7.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church, Elfed Road
Sarah - 07525 852288

TUESDAY
Barry - 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne - 01446 404897

Barry - 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall, Winston Road
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Llantwit Major
4.45 & 6.45pm
The Old School Wine Street
Helen - 01446 750738

Sully - 6.30pm
The Old School South Road
Niki - 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY
Barry
4.45 & 6.45pm
St. Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie - 01446 736534

Cardiff - 6.00pm
All Welcome
8.00pm MEN ONLY
Rob - 07708 941279
Copthorne Hotel, Culverhouse Cross, Cardiff

Barry - 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church Church Road
Joanne - 01446 404897

Penarth
9.30am & 11.45am
All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

Penarth
5.00pm & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall Victoria Square
Tracy - 07894 275853

THURSDAY
Cowbridge - 9.30am
Cowbridge Rugby Club
Rob - 07708 941279

Barry - 6.00pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Nia - 07793 885581

Dinas Powys - 6.30pm
The Cabin by swimming pool, Hebron Hall
Sarah - 07525852288

Barry - 10.15am
St Helen's Church Hall Wyndham Street
Niki - 01446 740394

Cowbridge - 7.30pm
Cowbridge Comprehensive Aberthin Road
Rob - 07708 941279

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Street protest over threat to town's livestock market

LED by the town mayor and town crier, thousands of people joined a protest march through Cowbridge last Friday.

The aim was to put pressure on the Vale Council, which intends to close the town's livestock market and sell off the land for housing for the elderly.

Local traders and townspeople on the march say that the town will lose trade, and also lose parking spaces, although the council disputes this, saying that it can develop the site without a net loss of parking.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS and MIKE WILCOCK.
{Photos marked 'GE' are by Glyn (telephone 07791 228684) and those marked 'MW' are by Mike (telephone 01446 774484)}.

Chamber of Trade chairman Alun John is interviewed by ITV.

Dave (86) shows his golf is still up to scratch!

ABOVE: Captain Lyn Thomas with Godfrey Lewis, Glyn Watts-Jones and Aubrey Thomas,

ABOVE: Phil Mason and Dan Latham with Dan and Tim Jarvis.

A HIGHLIGHT of the recently held monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was the magnificent effort of Dave 'Old Wallace' Thomas, who celebrated his 86th birthday in style when achieving a par on the difficult 187-yard 9th hole on the rapidly improving Button Gwinnett Course at Cottrell Park.

A well-placed tee shot, avoiding the bunker to the right and a large water hazard to the left, was the talking point at the 19th hole as David recalled his moment of glory.

At 86, David must surely be the oldest playing golfer to achieve a net birdie on this difficult hole.

The day's event, kindly sponsored by Hire One Ltd, attracted 38 competitors, all eager to test their skill on a course that boasts 13 lakes.

Despite the temperature at Cottrell Park – higher than the Costa del Sol – allowing for perfect playing conditions, the aspirations of quite a few members planning a visit to the winners' enclosure failed to materialise.

Loss of sleep and aching arms following a very heavy (and profitable) lambing season was offered as an excuse by many for their poor scores, while having the pleasure of looking after four grandchildren, gout in a finger and increased domestic chores were just some of the other reasons offered.

On the plus side, credit must be given to captain Lyn Thomas, Bryan Owen and Dai John, whose disciplined approach to the competition included a practice round just 24 hours earlier.

ABOVE: Trevor Wooding and Keith Davies with runner-up Bryan Owen

This nearly paid dividends for Bryan, whose final score of 37 stableford points was just two behind the winning score of Tony McCarthy, who credited his success to a stress free life following retirement.

In third and fourth place respectively were Glyn Watts-Jones and Jim Hayes who both scored 36 points.

Peter O'Toole won the guest section with 34 points, followed by Dan Jarvis who scored 33. Sponsor's representative Phil Mason, despite depositing two balls in the water on the final hole, finished third – also with 33.

Aubrey Bowen's prudent plans for his forthcoming 80th birthday celebration were given a timely boost when he won the 'Premier Turf' sponsored bottle of whisky, when correctly guessing 40 balls would spend the night on a golf course that occasionally has views of seven neighbouring counties and is named after a former resident at Cottrell, who was one of 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence back in 1776, thus becoming one of America's immortals.

The winners of the Llanerch Vineyard and Restaurant sponsored prizes for being nearest the pin on the par three holes were Phil Mason, Bryan Owen, Dan Jarvis and Tim Jarvis.

Dan also collected the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge sponsored longest drive prize.

Local resident William E Prichard, a former member of the society, was a guest to the evenings presentation ceremony.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 26, at Llanwern Golf Club and will be sponsored by Cowbridge and Bridgend Solicitors, Gaskell & Walker & Co.

T McC

Did you know that you can now find The Glamorgan GEM on Twitter - follow us *@gem_news*
We are also on Facebook - *facebook.com/gemnews*

Patched-up Barry outlast Clwb Rygbi

BARRY 2nd XV 15
CLWB RYGBI 2nd XV 8

BARRY were looking to get back on track with a home league fixture against high-flying Clwb Rygbi, who were at the other end of the table looking towards promotion.

With no less than six players being involved with the First XV, and injuries ravaging the second team squad, coach Rhydian Scott and interim manager Ken Chow tried their best to put together a 'patched-up' side.

Veterans Andrew Prosser, Jason Evans and Lee David were recalled into the match-day 19, while Seb Vidal, outstanding in the pack last week, was drafted to play inside centre. Joel Williams and Joe McCann continued their half-back partnership.

The form book and league standings pointed to a comfortable away win, and especially with the number of players missing for the home side. However, the green-and-whites tore up the form book and took the fight to Clwb Rygbi right from the off.

The forward power was too much for the visitors as Prosser, Lundy and No8 Evans all made good ground.

The strong running of the newly-formed centre partnership of Vidal and Ben Taylor also appeared threatening.

However, it was CRCC who opened the scoring with an interception try which stunned the home support. It was almost their first touch of the game.

That encouraged the away side and they fashioned several chances after the restart, using their talented backline as they threatened to increase their advantage.

In a notable moment, Clwb Rygbi put their second row through a gap for an easy score underneath the posts, only for the player to drop the ball while attempting a 'Chris Ashton swan-dive' and let Barry off the hook.

That proved to be a turning point for Barry as they attempted to use their forward domination.

The combination of Prosser and Callum Scott at the line-out was outstanding, while the front row proved too much for their opposition.

Prosser almost scored from an ambitious blind-side dash, only to be tripped up by his own team-mate Tobin, while Taylor had two opportunities when he broke the CRCC line.

The management brought on David and Michael Avaient at half-time in an attempt to cash in on their forward domination, and it worked almost immediately.

After several attempts on the CRCC line, it was down to Joe McCann, who crashed through to score. Adam Lee struck the post with his attempt at the extras.

After the visitors had sneaked ahead once more with a penalty, Barry charged for the opposition line with renewed vigour and aggression.

With CRCC camped in their own half with no way out, due to the well-organised Barry defence, with Lee Jones, Scott and David in the fore, the home side could feel that another score was on the cards.

The substitute Avaient was gifted a golden opportunity to score with the try line at his mercy, but he somehow failed to control the ball and knocked on when five points looked to be the only conclusion.

His blushes were spared, however, when the Barry pack drove their opposite number back, and Sam Bowditch put Vidal in for a deserved score under the posts. Lee made no mistake with his boot this time.

Clwb Rygbi desperately tried to come back but another away infringement at the breakdown gave Lee the opportunity for three points, which he duly accepted. Barry repelled the final onslaught by the away side as they wrapped up a memorable victory.

Credit must be given to players and management alike for a gutsy and precise display of rugby.

Team: Lee; E Evans, Vidal, Taylor, Porter; Williams, McCann; Lundy, Prosser, Bowditch; Scott, Tobin; Jones, Rolfe (c), J Evans. Subs used: David, Avaient. Subs not used: Thomas, Houldey. Man-of-the-match: Vidal.

KC

BARRY YOUTH 37 CARDIFF HSOB YOUTH 24

CAPTAIN Luke O'Sullivan returned from first team duty to score a hat-trick in a must-win game against Cardiff High School Old Boys if Barry were to keep their league hopes alive.

Things started glowingly as Luke O'Sullivan opened up the scoring for Barry.

With Barry playing into a strong wind, things got even better when a further two scores were put on the board through Ethan Dix and Jordan Clarke.

However, the strong wind meant that Einan Scott could only manage one conversion from three attempts.

However, at 17-0 and playing the better rugby what could go wrong? Then the blight of the commentator's curse took over, for CHSOB responded with four unanswered tries, two of which were converted.

Shell-shocked and trailing 24-17 at half-time the team were re-motivated by an uncompromising team talk by coaching staff.

With renewed self-belief their efforts were soon rewarded in the second half when after being camped in their own 22 they broke out and scored a try through O'Sullivan, the conversion by Scott bringing the scores level at 24-24.

Barry were now in the ascendancy and from a fifth-phase of attacking play O'Sullivan went blind and crossed for his hat-trick which went unconverted.

With the game tight and following an infringement by the opposition, Scott decided on a penalty attempt from inside his own half,

The ball struck the upright and returned infield to be gathered up by Nathan Harris, who was unfortunately brought down five metres out.

Within minutes, the opposition infringed again and Scott took an easier kick and put Barry two scores ahead.

In the dying stages Barry took control on a home throw in on the opposition five-metre line.

Using a neat ploy at a lineout, Sion Vidal peeled off from a quick tap down, went blind and crossed for a try which went unconverted.

The final score was 37-24.

Team: L Booker, J Clarke, E Dix, E Scott, R Case, J Flynn, R Mepham, T Ellis, C Prosser, M Howells-Davies, J Adams, S Vidal, L O'Sullivan, A Williamson, J Miles. Subs: J Oaten, J Westall, D Evans, N Harris, T Adams, B Wall, M O'Sullivan.

MM

The Penarth Patriots Basketball Club are on the look-out for sponsors to help the club thrive.

Top coaching helps Penarth Patriots reach new heights

PENARTH Patriots Basketball Club is reaching new heights thanks to an experienced new coach and the backing of the Community Chest scheme.

American O'Brien Greene, who has more than 20 years of basketball coaching knowledge acquired both in the USA and this side of the Atlantic, is passing on invaluable tips to the teenagers who attend the club each week.

O'Brien's time with the club is being funded by the Community Chest scheme, an initiative which helps people of all ages in Wales get more active, more often.

The scheme, which is run locally by the Vale Council's Sports and Play Development Team and agreed by a panel of volunteers with support from Sport Wales, has also funded coaching courses to help the parents of club members to improve their coaching CVs.

Tracy Morgan, who set up the club two years ago, said: "Having access to a top coach forms a vital part of a child's development in sport, and O'Brien is making a massive impact at our club. Being able to send some of our parents on coaching courses will also help with the long-term sustainability of our club."

Training up additional coaches will eventually enable the club to expand to run both an A and a B team to meet the demand of local teenagers who are keen to play basketball regularly.

Many teenagers are getting into basketball in their schools thanks to the extra-curricular sports sessions that are provided by the 5x60 scheme, run by Sport Wales and the Vale Council, so there is plenty of demand.

But, just like so many other community sports clubs, the Penarth Patriots could do with a bit of extra backing to help them thrive, as Tracy explains: "If possible, we'd love to hear from a local company who would be interested in sponsoring our club. We'd love to be able to buy some new kit, and if a sponsor came forward to help us to do this then that would be fantastic."

For further details, and to discuss a possible Community Chest application, please call the Vale Council's sports and play development manager Karen Davies on 01446 704793.

The Penarth Patriots train every Thursday at the Ysgol Pen-Y-Garth Sports Hall in Penarth, and also play regular matches against teams from across south Wales. If you'd like to find out more about the club, call Tracy on 07719 660096.

Westend Ladies host successful club fundraiser!

WESTEND Ladies netball club would like to thank everyone who attended their fundraising evening on Friday April 13 at the King William IV pub (The Billy).

The evening was a huge success with fabulous prizes won during the raffle, kindly donated by generous local businesses and individuals.

The quiz was also a success, along with everyone thoroughly enjoying the disco and putting their dancing shoes to good use!

There was also a football signed by the Welsh football team after the Gary Speed memorial auctioned, and this raised £200.

The event was held to raise money for the club, along with money for CLIC Sargent cancer charity. The team will be donating £400 to the charity and we will continue to raise more money throughout the year by hosting more events.

A special thank you to Joanne and Dave, and all staff at The King William IV for holding the evening and for being so welcoming, and for also agreeing to be Westend Ladies netball club's new sponsors.

We would also like to thank the following businesses and individuals for their kind donations:

Wayne Strong driving school, Food for Thought (The Deli), Oasis restaurant, Hedley's restaurant, Casa Paco restaurant, Streets Brasserie, R&M Mobile valeting, Smollanys, Coyotes hair salon, Lochfyne restaurant, The Queen's Vaults, Cardiff, Mr Mahli Ivor Street, Stacey Brown Treatments, Bagnall's Barbers, Lifetile, Cherry Orchard and Steven Meah.

Westend Ladies netball club now have a Facebook page advertising our progress throughout the season, future fundraising events and also events being held at the King William IV public house.

Send your stories to your GEM: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk.*

AGA Ladies' racing championships heats up for final event

AS the prestigious AGA Lady Riders' Championship enters its final weekend, the title battle is perched on a knife-edge with nine competitors still with a realistic chance of winning.

As it stands, Jane Williams leads the running, just four points ahead of Claire Hart, who had briefly drawn level after a victory at Ystradowen.

Excitement is mounting, with the final at Cheltenham on May 2 now within touching distance. At stake is not only a brand new AGA Total Control cooker worth almost £10,000, but also a prize fund of £7,500.

There is also the prestige and thrill of having a spin around the famous course – all factors that should ensure a bumper entry for the final and a very competitive race on the evening.

Second-placed Claire Hart is enthusiastic about the competition. She says: "I'm loving every minute and being part of it is fab. I cannot wait for Cheltenham and, win, lose or draw, being involved has been amazing."

In this weekend's two races, Jane Williams maintained her good form – and her place at the top of the leaderboard – with a win on *Swift Counsel* at Tabley House, and Claire Hart won on *Lady Myfanwy* at Ystradowen.

Full results:

YSTRAD Taf Fechan at Ystradowen result: First – *Lady Myfanwy*, owned by Paul Miles, trained by Myfanwy Miles, ridden by Claire Hart (4/5 fav); Second – *Avesomeofthat*, owned by Mr CD Tilly, trained and ridden by Hannah Lewis; Third – *Little Miss Monty*, owned and trained by Shan Farr, ridden by Emily Farr; Fourth – *No Reason Why*, ridden by Rachel Leyshon.

Lady Myfanwy took her winning tally to 31 (including three Hunter Chases) when justifying favouritism in the AGA Ladies' Open qualifier at Ystradowen.

The plan is to run in the AGA final at Cheltenham, although rider Claire Hart has also qualified her own charge, *Palypso de Creek*. *Lady Myfanwy*'s success keeps Claire in second place in the AGA Total Control Lady Riders' Championship.

Cheshire Forest at Tabley result: First – *Swift Counsel*, owned and trained by Diana Williams, ridden by Jane Williams, SP (4/6 fav); Second – *The General Lee*, owned by Anthony Squires and Judith Healey, trained by Phil Rowley, ridden by Lorna Brooke; Third – *Scotmail Too*, owned by Di Cope and Sue Sharratt, trained and ridden by Sue Sharratt; Fourth – *Top Achiever*, ridden by Hannah James; URs – *Le Seychellois*, ridden by Jo Mason; *Power Shared*, ridden by Claire Hart.

Jane Williams won her fourth 10-point AGA qualifier when her mother Diana's *Swift Counsel* made all the running to win easily.

"He was amazing," said a delighted Jane. "He jumped brilliantly. He was quite fresh, and he sometimes gets a bit silly at the start, but he jumped off with no problem."

Thankfully for Jane, she will not have to make a decision about her mount in the final – *Swift Counsel* is thought to be better on a flat track and Cheltenham would be unlikely to suit him, so she can team up again with *Billyoddan* to try to retain the championship they won last season.

BRIAN LEE

Point-to-Point racing is back in the Vale, and Ystradowen provides a great day out

POINT-TO-POINT racing is now in full swing and the sport continues to attract enthusiastic audiences who enjoy the thrill of seeing horse and rider in harmony as they tackle the fences.

GEM photographer GLYN EVANS attended a recent point-to-point at Ystradowen.

He mixed with spectators, enjoyed the sights and souns of the day, and captured these images of that fine British pastime – a day at the races!

RIGHT:
The leading horse sails over this fence and increases its lead.
BELOW:
A cagey start as the riders try to gauge the form of their opposition.

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

Other pictures are available from this event.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:
e-mail ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
telephone 07791 228684.
Visit our studio in the Wool Barn, Verity's Court, Cowbridge.

TOM SCORES ON MY FLORA

TOM David, who rode his 12th winner of the season at the Ledbury Point-To-Point Steeplechases on the Sheila Crow trained *West O'Rye*, who was seeing a racecourse for the first time, won the Chris Seward LifeTime In Racing Hunter Chase at Ludlow recently, thus denying the runner-up, *Divine Intervention,* a five-timer.

My Flora who had given Tom a good ride at the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival when finishing fourth, got home by a length.

VALE TRAINERS' EXETER SUCCESS

Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan won four the the six races staged at Exeter recently.

Evan scored with *American Cricket* (Adam Wedge) and *Ugo* (also Adam Wedge,) and Tim with *George Woolf* (Richard Johnson) and *Swift Escape* (Robert Kirk)

MINSGILL MANS

Cowbridge's Jeffrey Thomas informs me that his 14-year-old *Minsgill Mans* has been retired.

This grand old warrior won three Crudwell Gold Cups at the Radnor & West Herefordshire meeting and came close to winning the Chepstow Dunraven Bowl on more than one occasion.

He won 13 races in total and only won once going left handed and that was at Laleston.

Mr Thomas said: "He was very much a family horse and seven of his wins were with James Tudor in the saddle.'"

He added: "It's time now to say thanks,well done and a happy retirement."

JANE'S LUDLOW WINNER

Llancarfan permit holder Jane Mathias had plenty to smile about at Ludlow recently when her six-year-old homebred *Sohappyharry* landed the Racing Welfare Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

The six-year-old, who was ridden by Richard Killoran, won by a length from *Cydonia* at odds of 8-1.

Half-an-hour or so later, Tom David won the hunters' steeplechase on The Sheila Crow trained *My Flora* which beat the highly rated *Divine Intervention* by a length.

BRIAN LEE

VALE PUPILS ARE ALL SET TO RUN MINI LONDON MARATHON!

TWO of the Vale's top young endurance athletes will be hoping to bring the curtain down on their winter campaign with positive performances at next Sunday's Virgin Money Giving Mini London Marathon.

Seren Allin (year-8, Cowbridge) and Matthew Edwards (sixth form, Barry Comprehensive) are part of a seven-strong contingent of pupils from Cardiff and the Vale district that have been included in the Welsh Schools squad of 36 that will compete in the regions competition of the Mini Marathon.

They travel up to London on Saturday (April 21), and will stay the night at Royal Holloway College. On the Sunday morning, they face a very early start because the regional team coaches ferrying the 11 teams are due to leave the college at 6.45am in order to arrive at the assembly area at Old Billingsgate in good time for the first of the six race starts at 9.10am.

All the mini marathon races, which include teams from 10 other regions, plus the 38 London Boroughs, will be over the last three miles of the main marathon course, finishing in The Mall.

For Seren, this will be the second year of her taking part in the under-13 girls' race for pupils in years 7 and 8. Last year, she was one of only two year-7 pupils included in the Welsh Schools team.

She had a fine run, finishing 24th, the third Welsh scorer, in a time of 18:51, which will be her target to beat next Sunday.

While Seren would be the first to admit that this winter has not been as successful as she experienced in year-7, she can still feel pleased.

Although at the bottom end of the local schools' years 8 and 9 league, she still dominated all three Cardiff and the Vale Schools' races, winning the overall points' title and claiming the individual under-14s championship.

Matthew Edwards (Barry and Vale Harriers) on his way to winning the under-17s men s title at the Welsh Athletics National Championships at St Fagans in February.

At the Aviva Welsh Schools' National Championships at Brecon in late February, she finished sixth in the under-15s race, and led the Cardiff and the Vale team to second place.

That performance earned her a place in the Welsh Schools squad of eight, which competed at the Aviva SIAB Schools' cross-country international, hosted by Scottish Schools at Strathallan, near Perth, on March 31.

There, she finished as fifth Welsh scorer in 21st place on a fast course, helping her team claim bronze medals.

For Matthew, selection this year comes after the disappointment of missing out in 2011 on a place in the Welsh Schools' under-17s team for pupils in years 11 and 12.

Thankfully, that experience seems to have acted as a positive spur – one which has resulted in significant success both on the track last summer in the steeplechase event and over the country this winter.

Back in October, noone would have predicted that the Barry and Vale Harrier would win two Welsh titles – the Inter Regional under-17s at Builth Wells in December and the Welsh Athletics under-17s men's championships at St Fagans in February – nor that he would represent Wales at Brussels in December, finishing third in the under-17s men's race, and then again after Christmas at Edinburgh and Cardiff in under-20s men's teams.

Having had a hugely successful January in which he won both the schools' senior boys' title at the McCain Cardiff UK Cross Challenge and the under-20s league points and individual championship at the Cardiff and the Vale Schools' league and championships, Matthew underlined his improvement this winter by leading in the early stages of the senior boys' race at the Aviva Welsh Schools National championships at Brecon at the end of February, but had to settle for second.

Seren Allin (Cowbridge, 229) battles it out with Rosa Yates (Glamorgan Valleys, 531) and Jessica Bradley (Dyfed, 325) at the Aviva Welsh Schools National cross-country championships in Brecon.

Who wants to build what, and where?

Mr Jonathan Bird – **Beili Mawr, Dyffryn** – Steel framed shed to house a biomass boiler to supply heat to Beili Mawr, Hen y Beudy, Home Farm Bungalows and swimming pool, using biomass produced on the farm (wood chip).

MA Hardy Ltd – **New Farm, Port Road, Barry** – Agricultural workers dwelling.

JV Tree Services – **The Bailey, West Street, Llantwit Major** – Remove one semi-mature horse chestnut tree and remove epicormic growth and rebalance lime tree.

Mr David Clarke – **4 Fairfield Rise, Llantwit Major** – Detached garage and store.

Mr Barrie James – **The Croft, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys** – Construction of double garage to rear of the dwelling and retention of excavation and grading to the bank to the rear of the dwelling to reduce the proximity of the bank.

Seaview Management Company – **St Brides House, Kymin Road, Penarth** – Remove conifer.

Mr and Mrs W D Minns – **Rear garden of 24 Heol yr Ysgol, St Brides Major** – Variation of Conditions 2 and 3 of approved application 2010/00335/FUL.

The Trustees of H G Alexander – **West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw** – Repair, upgrade and convert to residential use the existing listed barns.

Mr and Mrs Glyn Jones – **21 Dyserth Road, Penarth** – Single storey to side and associated works to provide larger kitchen.

Mr Alan Carter – **147 Plymouth Road, Penarth** – Construction of a hipped roof over an existing flat roof. Construction of an ensuite to an existing bedroom.

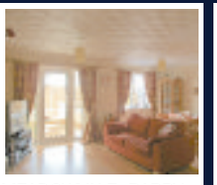
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board – **Llandough Hospital, Penlan Road, Penarth** – Stroke Rehabilitation Centre. Construction of two twin-storey links between wards East 3/4 and East 5/6. Demolition of wards East 3/4 and East 5/6 existing Day Rooms and construction of new four-bed wards.

174 Holton Road
Barry
Vale of Glamorgan
CF63 4HN

GROVE ESTATES

WENVOE TERRACE
- 3 bedroom semi detached property in sought after location of Barry
- Gas central heating
- Double glazed
- Good size front & rear gardens
- Views to rear overlooking Barry Dock & Bristol Channel

£145,000



MEADOWVALE, BARRY
- 3 bedroom detached property in sought after location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Spacious living accommodation throughout
- Driveway & garage
- Conservatory
- Good size garden to rear

£164,950

MOREL STREET, BARRY
- A well presented 3 bedroom property in a popular location of Barry
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Some original features remain
- Viewing highly recommended

£105,000

LLAN FARM, BARRY
- An extended 5 bedroom detached property dating back to approx 1700's
- Landscaped front & rear gardens set on approx 1/3 of an acre
- Set in quiet semi-rural location
- Off road parking with double garage
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Offered freehold

£299,000

PLAS ESSYLLT, SUNNYCROFT LANE, DINAS POWYS
- Immaculately presented 2 bedroom 1st floor maisonette
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Private front & rear gardens
- Balcony with views over Dinas Powys towards Llandough
- Off road parking to front
- Set on no through road, offering short walk to semi-rural woodlands

£122,950

BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
- A generously sized 2 double bedroom ground floor flat
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Communal front & rear gardens
- Viewing highly recommended
- No ongoing chain

£90,000

BRYN AWEL, BARRY
- 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol Channel

£244,950

COLCOT ROAD, BARRY
- 3 bedroom bay fronted semi detached
- Conservatory
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Driveway
- In need of cosmetic upgrade throughout.
- Offered with vacant possession & no chain

£128,950

RENTALS

Gladstone Road, Barry – £525 pcm
2 Bedroom 1st floor flat in popular location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished

St Mary's Avenue, Barry – £600pcm
3 Bedroom bay fronted property. GCH, DG. Unfurnished

Kingsland Crescent, Barry – £425 pcm
1 Bedroom first floor flat in popular location. GCH & DG. Unfurnished

Davies Street, Barry – £525 pcm
2 Bedroom property in popular location. GCH & DG. Unfurnished

Courtney Road, Barry – £425 pcm
3 Bedroom maisonette in popular location. GCH & DG. Unfurnished

St Aidens Rise, Barry – £550pcm
2 bedroom property in popular location, GCH & DG

Merthyr Street, Barry – £550 pcm
3 bedroom property in central location. GCH & DG. Unfurnished

Main Street, Barry – £425 pcm
2 bedroom ground floor flat. GCH. Rear garden. Unfurnished

Main Street, Barry – £400 pcm
2 bedroom first floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished

01446 747474 sales@e-grove.co.uk www.e-grove.co.uk

1 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AA

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Lettings: 01446 734668
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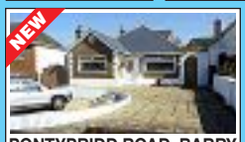
email:
enquiries@ninaestateagents.co.uk

FindaProperty.com propertyfinder.com OFT NAEA

NEW

PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Ideal for someone working from home. Versatile living. Extended detached dorma bungalow. Living room, kitchen/breakfast, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, also separate annexe to rear comprising bedroom, shower room, kitchen/sitting area (annexe can be accessed via main dwelling).
£284,950

NEW

PARC CLWYD, SPRINGFIELDS
Detached dwelling constructed in 2000. Spacious living room, dining and conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast area, utility, wc cloak. 4 bedrooms (master ensuite), converted garage providing sitting/bedroom, shower room. Enclosed garden. Ample parking.
£254,950

NEW

DANNOG Y COED, BARRY
Modern detached, spacious living, five bedrooms, ensuite to two bedrooms. Converted garage. private rear garden. Living room and dining room. Kitchen/breakfast. Cul de sac position.
£244,950

NEW

ST LYTHANS ROAD, BARRY
4 bedroomed, detached, cul de sac position. Living room, kitchen, open plan lounge with vaulted ceiling. Master ensuite. Enclosed garden. Driveway/garage.
£239,950

NEW

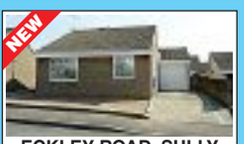
PORTHKERRY ROAD, BARRY
Mid terraced, traditional, spacious living. Three reception rooms. 1st floor: 3 double bedrooms, ensuite and family bathroom. 2nd floor: double bedroom and ensuite. Double garage. Lane access.
£229,950

NEW

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
Imposing Victorian semi. Three reception rooms. Five bedrooms (master ensuite). Family bathroom, Original features throughout. Enclosed rear garden. Double glazed, gas central heating. Spacious family home.
£229,950

NEW

BUTTRILLS ROAD, BARRY
Semi detached. Covered balcony/sun terrace. Living room, kitchen/diner and sitting room. Three bedrooms. Self contained basement room consists of living/kitchen, double bedroom, shower room, driveway. Sea views from front.
£219,950

NEW

ECKLEY ROAD, SULLY
Detached bungalow. Spacious living room. Two bedrooms. Low maintenance rear garden. Two conservatories. Integral garage. No chain. In need of modernisation.
£209,950

NEW

HARBOUR ROAD, BARRY
End of terraced, bay fronted traditional. Through living room, dining room, fitted kitchen, four bedrooms, family bathroom. garage. Sea views from garden.
£204,950

NEW

WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached. Sea views from 1st floor. South facing rear garden. Living room, conservatory. Ground floor bathroom. First floor wc cloak. Driveway/parking.
£189,950

NEW

WESLEY AVENUE, RHOOSE
Two bedrooms. Built in the 1950's. Semi detached bungalow. Living room, kitchen/diner, garage/parking. level enclosed garden. Viewing essential. No chain.
£184,950

NEW

ESGID MAIR, BARRY
Three bedrooms, modern detached, corner positioned. Detached garage. Living room, kitchen/diner, bathroom - ensuite. Enclosed garden.
£179,950

NEW

DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted traditional mid terraced. 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen, low maintenance garden. No chain.
£149,950

NEW

COURT ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached. Living room and dining room, kitchen. Stairs leading to hobby room (attic). Driveway parking. Front, side and rear gardens. No chain.
£134,950

NEW

TORBAY TERRACE, RHOOSE
Mid terraced traditional bay fronted. Living room, dining room, kitchen, sun lounge, wc, shower room, 2 bedrooms, previously three. First floor bathroom. Over 100ft rear garden. Located opposite train station.
£129,950

NEW

WYND STREET, BARRY
Two bedrooms, bay fronted. Forecourted front. Immaculate presentation. Through living room. Modern fitted kitchen. Enclosed garden. Lane access. Ideal first time buy.
£114,950

NEW 1st TIME BUYER

GLENBROOK DRIVE, BARRY
Modern mid terraced. Living room, modern fitted kitchen. Two double bedrooms. family bathroom. Driveway to front. Enclosed rear decked garden. upvc double glazing and gas central heating via combi.
£99,950

NEW

PENDINE CLOSE, BARRY
End of terrace, three bedrooms, wc, cloakroom, living room leading to rear. Upvc double glazing, gas central heating. Gates opening to rear, providing parking. No chain.
£97,500

NEW PRICE

PLEASANT VIEW, BARRY
Built in 1960's by its present owners. Originally two bungalows. Now used as one dwelling. Views over the Vale and farmland. Self contained. Ideal for dual living. Garage/driveway. Situated off Port Road. Cul de sac position.
£289,950

NEW PRICE

BEATTY CLOSE, BARRY
Spacious corner positioned link detached cul de sac position. wc cloakroom, living room, dining room, conservatory, sitting room or 5th bedroom, utility area, 4 bedrooms, sea views from first floor.
£179,950

NEW PRICE

BROOKFIELD AVENUE, BARRY
Three bedroomed, modern detached, living and dining room. Converted garage. Three bedrooms, Double driveway in width. Enclosed rear garden. no chain.
£174,950

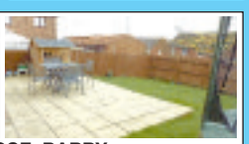
NEW PRICE

EAST WALK, BARRY
Extended semi detached. Spacious 23ft lounge, sitting room, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms. Garage and driveway. Enclosed rear garden. Spacious living throughout.
£169,950

NEW PRICE

BROAD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, four bedrooms, replacement kitchen, upvc double glazing, gas central heating, master ensuite, through living/dining sitting room. garage/lane access.
£159,950

NEW PRICE


HARDY CLOSE, BARRY
Fantastic value. Modern detached, four bedrooms, living room/dining room, wc cloakroom, sea views from rear. Enclosed garden. Garage/driveway. Close to Cardiff/M4
£159,950

NEW PRICE

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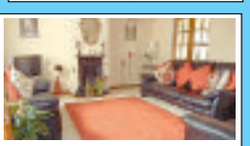
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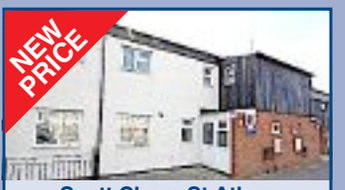

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Family Notices

Mary Berkeley
A year since your sad passing on 20th April, 2011.
"Always in our thoughts."
Your loving husband Colin and family *x x x*

WATTS, Marian
Peacefully at home on April 10th, after a short illness, Marian, loving wife of the late Evan, mother of Kate and the late Elspeth, mother-in-law of John and grandmother of Will.
Private funeral.

HILL
Christmas Henry Roy
Peacefully passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital on the 6th April 2012.
Dearly loved, father, grandfather and great grandfather,will be sadly missed by all his family. Resting at W.A.Brown & Son, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St.Illtud's Church on Friday 20th April 2012 at 1.45.p.m. followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15.p.m.
Family flowers only, but donations may be made to MacMillan Nurses c/o the Funeral Director (cheques only please). Grateful thanks to staff at Ward 10 for their kindness and care.

PARSONS
Jimmy *(of Llantwit Major)*
James Thomas Parsons Jnr, died suddenly on April 8.
Beloved son of Iris and Jimmy Parsons Snr, dearly loved father of Donna and Katie Ford, loving brother of Barry, Michael, John and Pauline, loved by his nearest and dearest – farewell darling.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tues April 24, service and cremation 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Drug & Mental Health Rehabilitation Centre, please make cheques payable to W James & Sons Charity Account c/o Mrs C James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ

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STEVENS
Cyril Charles
Peacefully on April 14, at Llandough Hospital, Cyril of Rhoose (retired Chief Insp., South Wales Police). Adored husband of Helen, loving father of Andrew and Linda, much loved Bamps of Craig and Emily.
Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Wed April 25, service 2.30pm at St Peters Church, Rhoose followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3.45pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ.

RICHARDS
Cheryl
Passed away peacefully after a long illness, on April 11, 2012, aged 46 years.
Cheryl, beloved daughter of Martin and Mavis. Cherished partner of Scott.
Much-loved mum of Philippa and Andrew, loving sister of Michelle and special daughter-in-law of Keith and Kay.
Forever in our thoughts.

YOUNG
Margot Carlyle
Died peacefully at her daughter's home in Cowbridge on April 4, 2012.
Born in Wellington, New Zealand in 1930. Dearly loved mother of Richard, Ian and Jenny and by her close friend and companion, Shirin Spencer.
The funeral service will take place at 12.30pm at St Cadoc's Catholic Church in Cowbridge on Monday April 30.
If you wish, donations may be made to Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth, or Velindre Cancer Centre, rather than in the form of a floral tribute.

FRANKLIN
Regina (Jean)
Passed away peacefully on 14th April at Holme Tower Penarth, after a short illness, Jean of Llantwit Major aged 74 years.
She will be loving remembered by her husband Colin, her children Diane and Paul and her beloved grand children Max and Sam. She is resting at WA Brown, Llantwit Major until the celebration of her life takes place at Coychurch Crematorium on Tuesday 24th April at 2.15pm. Family flowers only, memorial donations if desired may be made on the day in envelopes provided to Marie Curie Cancer Care,Holme Tower, Bridgeman Rd, Penarth or c/o the Funeral Director. (cheques only)

DAWSON
Trudy (Gertrude)
Neé Millbrook, formerly Roach
10.4.1911 – 2.4.2012
Trudy, of Llantwit Major, formerly of Buxton, Derbyshire, passed away at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, south Wales, on April 2nd 2012 at almost 101 years old.
Beloved wife of the late Reg, dearly loved Mother of Michael, Anthony and Patricia and stepmother to Bren, Peter and Lesley. Very much loved grandma, step-grandma and recently great-grandma. A remarkable lady who will be greatly missed.
Funeral to be held at Macclesfield Crematorium on 23rd April 2012 at 12 noon. Family flowers only please. Donations to British Heart Foundation can be sent to R W Percivals of 9a Heath Street, Buxton, SK17 6LT. A memorial service will be held in Llantwit Major at a later date.

RUSCOE
David
Peacefully passed away on April 7th, 2012 at Holme Tower, Penarth.
Loving husband of Christine, much loved Dad of Richard and Alison, Grandad to Megan and Joseph. Father-in-law to Owen, will be sadly missed by all family and friends.
Funeral service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Thursday, April 26th, 2012 at 1pm, followed by interment at Boverton Cemetary.
Flowers may be sent to J R or M F David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major, CF32 0SB.

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EVAN'S NATIONAL RUNNERS 'FINE'

LLANCARFAN trainer Evan Williams, who saddled fourth placed *Cappa Bleu* in last Saturday's Grand National, reports that all three of his runners – the other two were *State Of Play* and *Deep Purple*, who did not finish – "are absolutely fine, no problems at all."

He added: "They are sound as a pound and have eaten everything up. Cappa Bleu ran a fantastic race and was given a very good ride by Paul Moloney. He got murdered on two or three occasions and did well to stand up and finish fourth, only beaten by 12 lengths."

Elsewhere, Evan's four-year-old bay gelding *Gap Of Dunloe*, ridden by DE Splaine, was a 13-lengths winner of the opening maiden hurdle at Ffos Las on Sunday at odds of 50-1! And those few punters who backed the former Irish flat race winner on the tote received odds of just over 64-1!

Aberthin's Tim Vaughan was represented at the Grand National by *Postmaster*, which was pulled-up. However, Tim saddled his 100th winner of the season when his *Saint Are* beat *Battle Group* by half-a-length in the big hurdle race.

Congratulations to Matthew Barber, who rides out for Tim Vaughan, on winning on 20-1 outsider *Strictly* at Newton Abbot last week. *Strictly* is trained at Bridgend by former amateur rider Vivian Hughes.

Tim then notched-up his 101st winner of the season when his *Paradise Expected* won the two-miles-five-furlongs handicap chase under Michael Byrne.

This Saturday, the Pentyrch Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases are being held at Redlands Farm Racecourse, Bonvilston, and the main event of the day is the Welsh Point-To-Point Grand National over three-and-a-half miles (first race at 2pm).

Sam Hills impresses at championships

ON the weekend of March 24-25, Sam Hills from Barry Amateur Swimming Club took part in the Nationwide Junior and Youth Swimming Championships, held at Ponds Forge in Sheffield.

The events division of The English Federation of Disability Sport (EFDS) organised the annual event, which aims to give young swimming talent an opportunity to compete and a springboard to international success, so it is a great chance to spot future stars.

Double gold Beijing Paralympic medallist and London 2012 hopeful Eleanor Simmonds was amongst the competitors.

It was a fantastic weekend of swimming. The event welcomed over 200 swimmers from across the country, where two world records, one European record and eight British records were broken – all records are dependent on ratification.

Sam (15), a pupil at Stanwell School, was born with hip, leg and feet problems. After five operations on each leg and foot he was able to walk, although any activities that require running are difficult.

However, he can swim, and started swimming with Barry Amateur Swimming Club at the start of this year.

During the weekend he was classified as a disabled swimmer for Wales and this major competition was his first national event.

Sam achieved a silver medal in the 100 metres breaststroke. He swam the distance in a time of two minutes, 10.98 seconds, just behind Morgan Vaughan, who also swam for Wales.

This is such a fantastic achievement for someone who has been swimming with a club for a short amount of time.

Also during the same weekend, Barry Amateur Swimming Club held its AGM at the Welsh Tabernacle Church in Holton Road, Barry. During the event, Heulwen Cooper, the club Chair, announced the 2012-2013 club captains and vice captains.

This year, as always, the captains were voted for by the swimmers of the club. The club captains are Michael Crompton and Georgia Looker, who both have been long-standing members of the club.

For the first time as the votes were closed it was decided to have two vice captains. So Jonathan Bowden and Jonathan Haggett were chosen for the boys and Alice Lewis and Alana Wilson for the girls. Well done to all of you.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club is always looking for new members to join the club so if you would like a trial, phone Mrs Heulwen Cooper on 01446 733784.

For more information, also look on the Barry Amateur Swimming Club website.

Jude Hills

Skoda's pitch for the executive market is Superb

by TIM SAUNDERS

ABOVE: The Skoda Superb.

CAR names create expectations.

For instance, buy a Renault Espace and you anticipate bags of room, while the Toyota Land Cruiser conjures up visions of a very capable vehicle on and off the road. Both these examples easily live up to their names.

Naming a vehicle can be a tricky exercise though, as Mitsubishi knows all too well with its Charisma, which sadly didn't have any.

Understandably, other manufacturers, like BMW and Peugeot, steer well clear, instead sticking to numbers – perhaps a safer bet.

And so to the Skoda Superb. The Oxford English Dictionary defines 'superb' as excellent, magnificent or splendid. Skoda owner Volkswagen also owns Bentley so perhaps this choice of name should have been reserved for its most prestigious marque...

However, this top of the range Skoda is aimed at the chauffeured executive.

It's necessary for car manufacturers to set themselves apart from the competition and so the Superb has two key points of interest. Starting with the boot, push one button underneath the boot rim and the boot lid opens like a saloon, push another and the whole tailgate rises like a hatchback. This makes it a very user-friendly vehicle for most kinds of loads.

Other neat and perhaps even 'superb' touches include the concealed umbrella in the left-hand rear door to help executives tackle the British climate.

A similar feature can be found in a Rolls Royce costing five times as much. There is also the option of Park Assist – a function for making the Superb park itself. However, it could benefit from a wiper on the rear windscreen because it does get a bit mucky.

Perhaps the marketing team, during their brainstorming, felt that Superb aptly referred to Skoda's 1.4-litre engine that powers the base model and delivers more than adequate performance.

However, the sprightly 1.8 TSi tested really does feel more like a two-litre, although when changing down from sixth to fourth and then accelerating back up there can be a small delay. But this can be overcome with a bit of revving.

The six-speed manual box is decisive and reliable. It all adds to the driving experience, which, as with all Skodas, is generally smooth, particularly at speed. The Superb holds the road well and corners with aplomb.

A well-appointed vehicle, virtually all functions are electrically operated and the black leather interior is comfortable, although the front seats could benefit from additional padding in the lower lumbar region.

Bearing in mind that the Superb falls in to Audi A6 and BMW 5-series territory, its exterior is more of an acquired taste, reminding me a little of the Volkswagen Passat with which it shares its chassis. It looks similar to the Seat Exeo, too.

Parkers, the car experts, write: "Skoda has pulled out all the stops for the Superb – the biggest and most expensive model in the range.

It gets a wide range of modern engines and gearboxes, has limousine levels of legroom inside and is very well equipped. Comfortable and refined on the move, it's also great value with generous levels of standard equipment."

So perhaps Skoda was justified in calling this model Superb after all…

The 1.8-litre TSi model tested: New price range: £17,675 - £31,725; 0-60secs: 8.5secs; top speed: 137mph; economy: 39.8mpg .

Local trainers win at Ludlow

LLANCARFAN permit holder Jane Mathias had plenty to smile about at Ludlow when her six-year-old homebred *Sohappyharry* landed the Racing Welfare Novices' Handicap Hurdle.

The horse, who was ridden by Richard Killoran, won by a length from *Cydonia* at odds of 8-1.

Half-an-hour or so later, Tom David won the hunters steeplechase on the Sheila Crow-trained *My Flora*, which beat the highly rated *Divine Intervention* by a length.

Brian Lee

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GEM sport

Cowbridge too strong for poor Blaengarw with 114-point haul

SINCE Cowbridge scored 114 points against them in November Blaengarw's performances have improved, and they were unlucky not to record their first victory against Banwen recently.

So Cowbridge travelled to Blaengarw last Saturday expecting a tougher game than November's.

This was not to be the case, and again they scored 114 points, including 18 tries and 12 conversions.

The conditions were perfect for running rugby and Cowbridge did not disappoint. The first try was on the board within four minutes from captain Ross Llewellyn.

And so it continued with 10 tries in the first half from Llewellyn, three from flying wing Liam Rowland, two from flanker Luke Boys, one from centre Ilia Pellegrotti, two from the other wing Richie Howsen, and a score from scrum-half Dewi Edwards.

No10 Carwyn Morgan kicked seven conversions.

All this included a 10-minute period when the Blaengarw defence held Cowbridge at Bay.

Half time score: Blaengarw 0 Cowbridge 64.

In the second half, tries from flanker Jac Williams, a fourth for Rowland, a third for Howsen, one each for second rows Carwyn Davies and Steve Birchenough, a second for Edwards, one for No10 Morgan and one for replacement full back Matthew Pound added to Cowbridge's win.

Morgan added a further five conversions, taking his points total to 29 for the game.

By this time there were passive scrums, so Blaengarw had some possession, and to their credit did not give up throughout the game and were rewarded with a breakaway try midway through the second half.

However, the strength and speed of the Cowbridge team was all too much, with Huw Lougher making several powerful breaks up the middle and Morgan wreaking havoc from outside half. Both wings had ample opportunities and took them well.

The pack were rampaging throughout the game, particularly flankers Luke Boys and Jac Williams, who carried on from their fine performances against Cefn Cribbwr last week, while second rows Davies and Birchenough might fancy themselves in the centre this week.

Final Score: Blaengarw 7 Cowbridge 114.

This Saturday we entertain Rhigos at the Athletic Field and the boys will be looking for revenge following the 15-5 defeat in December.

The following Saturday is the final home game of the season against Ogmore Vale, followed by the presentation evening in the Athletic Club.

Sandwiched inbetween is a cup semi-final against Old Illtudians at Rumney this Tuesday. Full details from the club.

This has been one of the best seasons for the club for some years and the players and coaches deserve great credit, so come and support them, as you all have throughout the season, for the final games.

RV/RK

CONFIDENT START FOR COWBRIDGE CRICKET

Barry XI defeated in friendy match

THE 2012 cricket season began for Cowbridge First XI with a friendly match of 40 overs against a Barry First XI.

This pre-season friendly took place on the island in Barry as the Athletic Field is not yet ready for cricket.

It was a beautiful, if chilly, start to the season, and thankfully dry so the outfield was really quick.

Tom Merilaht won the toss and elected to bat as he usually does, and the regular pairing of Tom and Mike Lloyd opened the batting.

Like the previous season, they began with a decent opening partnership, scoring at over four runs an over until the first wicket fell at 73. Mike Lloyd was bowled by White for 45 (six fours and two sixes) and the fall of his wicket brought the first of the young Malaysians to the wicket.

Faris looked good while at the crease, but he was soon caught for a useful 20 runs. He was followed by his fellow countryman, Amin; who looked just as good and eventually went on to score 23 before being bowled.

Meanwhile, Merilaht batted on serenely to be eventually bowled for 58 (six fours and two sixes). At this point the score was 129 for three wickets off 27 overs.

Alex Kurobassa and Chris Willey were then together for most of the remaining 13 overs of the innings. Alex hit a quick-fire 49 (four fours and three sixes), while Chris kept him company with a mature seven runs.

The innings closed on 215 for six wickets, which proved to be a winning score.

A Baker (3-21 off five) and R Hatton (2-22 off three) were the best performers with the ball for the home side; G.White (44) and A Baker (21) scored most of their runs.

They managed 130 for six wickets in reply. Will Johnson (two for 15 in five overs), Tom Merilaht (two for 10 off five overs) and Chris Willey (1-26 off seven) were the main wicket takers.

The afternoon proved a very useful workout for the team after indoor nets through the winter, and the added bonus of some useful new cricketers joining the club augurs well for the coming season.

DL

Cowbridge taste easy victory in West Sussex over Easter break

The Cowbridge under-11s celebrate another successful raid over the border after they conquered West Sussex without suffering one defeat.

COWBRIDGE under-11s continued their fantastic season with an all-conquering Easter tour to Worthing, West Sussex.

The boys played six games, winning five and drawing one. They scored 23 tries without conceding any and came away champions.

Having won last year's Easter Tour tournament in Bournemouth, expectations were high from all involved and the boys did not disappoint.

For this year's tour the boys moved further east along the English coast in search of a new challenge.

At under-11s level, the rugby laws in England differ significantly from those the boys play week in week out in Wales.

Consequently, this was the first time the Cowbridge team had encountered "pushing" in the scrums, contested line-outs, kicking from anywhere on the field plus you could have as many players as you want in the breakdown area.

The boys took up the challenge and performed heroically. The pack stole six scrums against the head and demonstrated that the expert training received earlier in the week had paid off.

All high balls were taken confidently by the back three, the line out calls operated effectively and the back row cleaned up in the breakdown area.

During the tournament, the spectators could see there was a marked difference between how Cowbridge have been coached to play the game compared to their English counterparts. All the Cowbridge boys know how and when to pass the ball, and have the confidence to run the ball from anywhere on the pitch.

The English teams persisted in kicking the ball out of defence only for the Cowbridge backs to keep the ball in hand and score length-of-the-field tries.

The only team to pose any challenge to the boys during the tournament was Chichester, who are the reigning West Sussex district champions. The boys had to dig deep to thwart a concerted effort against them.

With a big pack Chichester enjoyed numerous scrumaging opportunities, which the boys coped with admirably despite their lack of experience.

By the end of this tense game the front row had been made fully aware of the complexity of the laws regarding the scrum!

To end the tournament as champions without conceding a single try is a marvellous achievement, well done to all involved!

Tournament results: game one – Haywards Heath 0, Cowbridge 10; Game two – Worthing 0, Cowbridge 20; Game three – Chichester 0, Cowbridge 0; Game four – Ba Bas 0, Cowbridge 35; Game five – East Grinstead 0, Cowbridge 30; Game six – Polborough 0, Cowbridge 20.

The boys and the parents would like to thank Stave Williams and Russell Cryer for organising the tour and Neil Fenn for hosting the international barbeque event on the Saturday night.

Tour squad: Barty Norton, Lewis Hawke, Jack Dixon, Ben Jones, Iestyn Fenn, Ioan Williams, Evan Thomas, Barny Langton-Cryer, Brad Downes, Harry Edwards, Luke Martin, Ed Lewis, Harry Bluc, Scott Archbald, Sam Russel and Tom Humphreys.

GJ

Llantwit's shock win

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HAVING claimed a nail-biting 34-32 win at Bridgend Sports the previous week, Llantwit were in good spirit for the visit of Abercwmboi, who had won 29-14 at home back in November.

With both sides showing intent to play rugby in a competitive tussle the result could have gone either way, but Llantwit deservedly survived a late scare to hang on for a well-deserved win that kept their proud home record for 2012 intact.

The visitors worked their way upfield and after several pick and goes they crossed for a converted try to take a 7-0 lead.

Llantwit fought back with fly-half Chris Fowler reducing the deficit with a penalty and then wing Ryan Watson made a blistering run, taking play into the opposition 22, before sending full-back Marcus Pearce in for an unconverted try that gave Llantwit a slender lead at 8-7.

This was shortlived, however, as Abercwmboi goaled to turn around 10-8 up.

Aber wing Lee Williams kicked three penalties to nudge his side 19-8 in front but Llantwit kept the pressure on with Fowler keeping them in touch with a well-struck penalty.

Outstanding young Llantwit prop Carl Watts crashed over for a well-deserved try.

Fowler converted and with five minutes to go the Llantwit fly-half kicked a superb penalty to nudge his side ahead.

DG

Grading succcess for Wales TKD

A huge congratulations to all students of Wales TKD who passed their grading.

The day started at 10am with an hour's technical session for all of the black belts focusing on coloured belt and black belt patterns.

The next hour was spent with all of the students again concentrating on fundamental movements and some self defence applications.

Grading saw emphasis on patterns and application of techniques, and all of the students showed that they have worked really hard this year.

Once again a big thank you to Master David Dykes, who also presented Laura Charley with her II Degree certificate.

Congratulations to: Brandon Williams 9th Kup, Madison Morgan 9th Kup, Caitlin Lamont 9th Kup, Leah Roberts 9th Kup, Mathew Snook 9th Kup, Nigel Thomas 9th Kup, Ellie Walker 9th Kup.

Brooklyn Luce 7th Kup, Megan Lewis 7th Kup, Ethan Barnes 7th Kup, Alan Williams 7th Kup.

Breeanne Walker 6th Kup, Teigan Blanch 5th Kup, Rebecca Beach 5th Kup, Kaitlyn Lewis 4th Kup, Nicole Dando 4th Kup.

Emma Heaslip 3rd Kup, Joshua Heaslip 2nd Kup, Jay Dupre 2nd Kup, Seren Dupre, 2nd Kup.

If you would like more information about our club please visit our website: www.walestkd.co.uk or call Gary on 07731 090305 or Laura on 07502 222974.

GL